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Sheikh Isa congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, the emir of Bahrain, congratulating him on the 40th anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers. Sheikh Isa wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

UAE executes 4

ABU DHABI (AP) — Four convicted murderers were executed Wednesday in a rare use of capital punishment by this federation of emirates. The executions were announced by the Interior Ministry. It did not specify the method used. Previous executions have been by firing squad. One of those executed, Otama Likal Toya of India, was convicted in 1989 of killing Mubarak Khalif Al Nasir in the city of Al Ain. Ibrahim Ahmad Abdullah Ahmad and Abdullah Mohammad Al Khasomi, UAE nationals, were executed for killing Jawad Zaghi Ben Nizar Ali after kidnapping her along with three of her relatives. The date of the crime was not given. Rashid Salim Saeed Al Falahi, a UAE national, was executed for killing Hamdan Saqr Al Falahi last year.

Beirut daily shut

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government closed the opposition daily Al Safir for seven days starting Wednesday for publishing the alleged text of an Israeli plan for a possible withdrawal from Lebanon. The state prosecutor charged that the daily had published "for no legal reasons a document which, in the interest of the state, should have remained secret," a spokesman for Al Safir said quoting the official notice of closure. Foreign Minister Fares Bouzey told reporters the published document was an "incorrect translation" of the original and a fake.

Mubarak ratifies death sentences

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has ratified death sentences for seven Muslim militants convicted of attacking foreign tourists and plotting to overthrow the government, official sources said Wednesday. They said Mr. Mubarak endorsed the verdicts on May 8. No date has been set for the executions to be carried out.

UAE to normalise ties with Yemen

SANA (AP) — The United Arab Emirates moved Wednesday to patch up relations with Yemen, disrupted when Yemenis supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The official news agency SABA said the call came in a message from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The message "affirmed the necessity of turning the page on the past and looked forward to forgiveness, mercy and rapprochement among brothers whose solidarity was unavoidable in line with their destiny and history," the agency said. The message expressed a desire to strengthen ties in various fields that serve mutual interests of the two people, the agency said.

Libya for Islamic boycott of Britain

TUNIS (R) — Libya called Wednesday for an Islamic boycott of Britain following a meeting between Prime Minister John Major and author Salman Rushdie. "Where are those who claim to be defenders of Islam," the religious affairs editor of the official Libyan news agency JANA wrote in a commentary. "Why do they not protest and boycott Britain because its government receives at the highest level such as individual who assails Islam, Muslims and the Prophet Mohammad?" See related story on page 2.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

'Iran has 8 cruise missiles to guard Gulf'

LONDON (AP) — Iran has purchased eight supersonic, sea-skimming cruise missiles from Ukraine to control the vital tanker route into the Gulf, the Observer newspaper reported. The purchase of the Sunburst missile was characterised as being part of an aggressive programme by Iran to regain military strength lost in its 1980-88 war with Iraq and become the region's superpower. Ukraine's parliament speaker, Ivan Pylyshch, is visiting Tehran this week. Officials have said the two countries are discussing cooperation in various fields, including oil and energy, but there have been no reports from Iran concerning military purchases. A Ukrainian-made Sunburst missile could hit a vessel passing through the Strait of Hormuz about 17 seconds after it is launched in Iran, according to the Observer. In addition to the eight missiles, Iran bought up to 30 MiG-29 and other combat aircraft, more than 200 T-72M1 tanks and the S-300 air defence system which the Russians claim is better than the U.S. Patriot system used in the Gulf war, the paper said. The size and range of Iran's arms buying has caused concern among the smaller Gulf states and their Western allies.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks struggle forward

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks are struggling forward, disrupted by the Palestinians' anger at what they say are broken Israeli promises and threatened by a coalition crisis in Israel.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators Tuesday discussed a Palestinian draft statement of principles on self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip despite a threat from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to delay the document as a protest.

But the Palestinians sent a reduced team to the session and refused to convene working groups set up last week because they said Israel and the United States had failed to carry out promises made to persuade them to resume the peace process.

"I think that the draft they have presented to us definitely represents the gaps in the views

of both sides. The gaps are standing out," an Israeli official said.

The Israelis presented their version of the document last Thursday and the Palestinians immediately condemned it for "lack of seriousness."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher meanwhile was more enthusiastic about the prospects for progress.

"There will be very considerable progress to report" by the end of this round of talks, Mr. Christopher said, adding that he was encouraged by the Israeli-Palestinian discussions because they were addressing substantive issues.

"That's a very good sign, very hopeful to me," he told reporters.

"Whenever you have four different talks you are bound to have

greater speed on one track than on another. But overall I think it has been a very good round," the secretary said. "I expect there will be very considerable progress to report, including on the Palestinian track. But we really won't know that until Friday comes along," Christopher said. The secretary noted that there will be a recess in this round of talks starting May 14, when the parties return to the region for consultations.

Asked about setbacks on the Israeli-Palestinian track, Mr. Christopher said that "inevitably there are ups and downs in the situation. But the main thing about the Palestinian track that is notable is that they are talking substantive issues."

"That is a very good sign, a very hopeful sign," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday Israel would consider further gestures to Palestinians to help the peace talks.

Despite the Arabs' gloomy assessment of the talks, Mr. Peres said he hoped Israel would be able to reach a joint declaration of an agenda with the Palestinians before the current round of negotiations ends Thursday.

"We shall look very carefully to any other requests of the Palestinians to facilitate their negotiations," Mr. Peres told foreign correspondents.

"We are not blind, and we are not indifferent to the difficulties they are facing," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres, in a news conference with the foreign press association in Israel, also disclosed that under the present climate we cannot agree on the frontiers... so

let's travel from the present climate to a new climate which will make it possible for them and for us to mark permanent frontiers."

He said he expected the 10th round to convene early in June.

On talks with Lebanon, Mr. Peres said that the Israeli delegation was disappointed with Lebanon's response to the Jewish state's latest proposals but gave no details.

Mr. Peres urged the Syrian delegation to be more specific on how it sees peace evolving with Israel.

"Just to have embassies, an Israeli embassy in Syria and eventually a Syrian embassy in Israel, is really part and parcel of a real peace," Mr. Peres said.

(Continued on page 10)

Israelis kill two in occupied Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded 33 in an explosion of violence Wednesday which left two soldiers wounded.

The fighting broke out over the killing of six members of the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, (Hamas), by Israeli troops as they tried to flee to Egypt, Palestinian sources said.

Mohammad Salem Abu Taha, 13, was shot in the stomach when soldiers opened fire at stone-throwing demonstrators in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, Palestinian sources said. He died in hospital.

At the Den Al Balah camp in the Strip, soldiers posted on a rooftop near a market opened fire on stone-throwers, hitting Fuad Tousarez in the mouth and killing him instantly. The 18-year-old had been wounded three other times in previous clashes with the Israelis.

Troops shot and wounded 33 other Palestinians in the Strip, the sources added.

In the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, two Palestinians stabbed and wounded two soldiers during a change of guard at an army observation post, officials and witnesses said. The Palestinians stole the soldiers' rifles and fled in a commandeered car.

Hamas activists later roamed Nablus streets announcing by loudhailer that the attack was in retaliation for the killing of the six members from Hamas, Palestinians said.

The army said one soldier was in serious condition. The other was lightly wounded. Army chief Ehud Barak said the incident was serious.

"There have been such incidents," he told army radio. "There were worse ones and lesser ones. This incident is serious in terms of its outcome and we will handle it accordingly."

"There is continuing activity inside the West Bank and Gaza strip and we are fighting it. I don't think we've finished fighting the intifada. There will still be events of all kinds."



A Palestinian woman gestures as an Israeli soldier looks at her. Another woman lies on the ground, appearing to be in pain or unconscious. Other people are visible in the background.

Rabin seeks wider cabinet

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin seeks to enlarge his ruling coalition to stamp out the threat to his government from infighting between its secular and religious wings, officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Rabin, who on Tuesday saved the government from imminent collapse and secured a one-week reprieve, has told aides he wanted to avoid a prolonged political crisis "at all costs."

He has opened a dialogue with the Jewish ultra-orthodox United Torah Party, which has four seats in parliament, officials said.

Mr. Deri of the Shas religious party tendered his resignation Sunday demanding that the leader of the Meretz party and secular champion be stripped from education following her "unspoken comments on the Jewish religion."

Mr. Rabin won a week's reprieve just minutes before Mr. Deri's resignation was due to take

effect and leave the coalition without a majority in parliament, the Knesset.

Shas has six MPs in the 120-seat Knesset. Meretz has 12 seats and the premier's Labour Party 44, five short of a majority without Shas. But the government also has the backing of five Arab-Israeli and Communist MPs.

Rabbi Adi Abraham Shapira, a Torah MP, confirmed a dialogue was underway with the government. But the party's spiritual guide, Rabbi Eliezer Shach, ruled out joining the coalition.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, stressed that the government's priority was the Middle East peace process and not to combat a prolonged political crisis.

"We must enlarge the ruling coalition because the government cannot at the same time be on the domestic and diplomatic fronts," he said.

Egypt-Sudan rift worsens

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's relations with Sudan took another dip Wednesday when Cairo airport authorities refused entry of two Sudanese diplomats coming from Pakistan.

The diplomats, Mahmoud Mohammad Abdul Ghani and Al Sadiq Abdul Aziz Abdullah, left Cairo for the Sudanese capital Khartoum on a Sudanese airliner after waiting at the airport for 13 hours.

There was no explanation for the Egyptian move but state-owned newspapers reported at the weekend that around 230 Muslim extremists expelled from Pakistan have been received in Khartoum. Sudan denied the report, saying it was aiming at escalating tension between the two countries further.

President Hosni Mubarak has accused the Muslim fundamentalist government of Sudan of training and financing Muslim extremists with the help of Iran. He says:

that once trained, extremists are sent to Egypt and other Arab states on missions aimed at overthrowing their governments.

Hundreds of militants who fought against former Soviet Union in Afghanistan have moved to Pakistan, where Egypt says extremist attacks are being plotted.

Sudan's government has been rounding up and expelling scores of suspected radicals.

Amid growing tension between the two countries over a border dispute, a Sudanese official said Tuesday his country would support the establishment of an Islamic state in Egypt.

Ghazi Salahuddin, presidential state minister, told a popular meeting in Khartoum that the next quarrel with Egypt will not be over territory but morality.

"The next battle will be between virtue and vice and will go beyond the question of Halab," he said.

Mubarak calls for Arab reconciliation

BAHRAYN (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged Arabs Wednesday to find a way to heal the rift caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Mubarak also urged perseverance in Middle East negotiations and said he hoped an Arab-Israeli peace settlement would be reached before the end of the year.

Iran, meanwhile, accused the Egyptian president of trying to divert attention from "the real danger," Israel, by demonising it.

The agency said that asked about the current situation in the Arab World and restoring Arab solidarity, the Egyptian president "expressed his desire to find a means of restoring Arab solidarity and cooperation among Arab countries in the interest of the Arab region."

On the U.S.-led Middle East peace process, the agency said Mr. Mubarak was optimistic about its eventual success.

THE DEBATE on whether Jordan needs electoral reform has pointed to many "undemocratic" and even "unconstitutional" provisions in the current controversial elections law, but produced little more than vague ideas on how to redress them. In the first of a series of articles on the issue, Ayman Al Sayadi looks at the distribution of seats and constituencies under the current law and assesses the impact of change on them.

POLITICAL parties, activists, members of parliament and others have been attempting to address legal technicalities for the mechanisms of change in the 1989 elections law in the event the government asks for it. Solid proposals for a new election law that would not disturb the balance in Jordan's complicated socio-political environment have yet to be made, however.

The one thing on which the majority of political parties agree is that the government should not unilaterally change the law through temporary legislation, which is not endorsed by Parliament.

Such a step, they argue, would be undemocratic or un-

constitutional due to the lack of extraordinary circumstances that would give the government the right to issue provisional law without calling an extraordinary session of Parliament, whose mandate runs till November.

Changing the election law "would be unconstitutional," prominent lawyer Ibrahim Bakr argued recently, expressing a view shared by the majority of members of the House and

political parties.

His Majesty King Hussein said earlier this month that changes to the law are still under consideration, while the only thing government sources would confirm is that the

King nor members of Cabinet have publicly proposed a mechanism for initiating the change if it is to be introduced. A mechanism that seems to be winning favour with the majority of parties concerned, however, is the formation of a popular committee in which representatives of all political trends in the country are included and entrusted with the process.

"The elections law is a basic law," says former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri. "Changing it should be part of a process that enjoys wide support by the public" and the various arms of

the state.

But the apparent agreement on the mechanism for changing

(Continued on page 10)

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Russia uses veto to kill Cyprus draft

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Russia stunned the Security Council Tuesday by casting its first veto since 1984 to kill a British resolution aimed at reforming the financing of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). All 14 other council members voted for the draft, calling for the costs of the 1,500-member force to be divided among all U.N. members, instead of relying on voluntary donations.

UNFICYP, one of the longest-running U.N. peacekeeping operations, has been stationed on the Mediterranean island since 1954 to help keep peace among the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

It is the only U.N. force to rely on voluntary contributions, provided mainly by the countries which furnish the troops. As a result, it has an accumulated deficit of some \$200 million.

Britain, which, together with Austria and Canada, has a large contingent serving with UNFICYP, provides much of the force's logistics and estimates its annual contribution at close to \$50 million.

If future costs were apportioned among all U.N. members Britain's share would amount to just over \$1 million.

Russia, in dire economic straits, seeks to avoid additional financial burdens, even though its share of the Cyprus operation would amount to less than \$2 million a year.

Moscow's decision to unsheathe its 115th veto over a matter of relatively minor importance was greeted with disbelief by many diplomats.

They saw it as the use of a diplomatic cannon, reminiscent of the cold war era, to bag a rabbit of a resolution.

Russian U.N. envoy Yuli Vorontsov, who is also president of the council this month, said: "We would not like to create a precedent of full rejection of U.N. practice of the principle of voluntary financing of peacekeeping operations."

Russia's position was "dictated solely by practical considerations" relating to future U.N. peacekeeping, he said.

As an inducement to Russia to agree to the reform, Cyprus and Greece had offered to contribute a total of \$25 million of the anticipated \$47 million annual cost of the force.

Cyprus is anxious to retain UNFICYP, in view of the presence of some 30,000 Turkish troops in the north of the island, and had said it would donate \$18.5 million a year, while Greece would provide \$6.5 million.

This would have left only about \$22 million annually to be divided among the rest of the U.N.'s 181

members. But it still failed to persuade Moscow.

Britain's Sir David Hannay expressed regret at Russia's decision "because it puts in jeopardy the whole of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cyprus" as well as the efforts of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to end the division of the island.

He called Russia's action "quite disproportionate, given the extremely modest financial implications" for Moscow, and urged it to reconsider.

Because of the promised payments by Cyprus and Greece, voluntary contributions would still account for more than 50 per cent of UNFICYP's financing, he noted.

American Ambassador Madeleine Albright also regretted Russia's veto but said the United States understood and shared some of its concerns over the broader question of peacekeeping financing.

The inequalities in the existing peacekeeping assessment scale are beginning to call into question our ability to carry out the U.N.'s work," she said, alluding to major operations in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Cambodia.

"We are coming to the day when countries in need will dial the global '911' and get a busy signal," Ms. Albright said, referring to the "911" emergency phone number.

The Soviet Union, whose Security Council seat was taken over by Russia in December 1991, last used its veto in February 1984 to defeat a resolution calling for a two-month truce in Lebanon.

The last veto by any of the council's five permanent members — Russia, France, the United States, Britain and China — was cast by the United States in May 1990 against a draft dealing with the Israeli-occupied territories. That was the 69th U.S. veto since the founding of the United Nations.

UNFICYP has been steadily eroded over the past year as troop-contributing countries, which absorb about 70 per cent of the costs, have withdrawn some or all of their troops.

They have grown disenchanted at the financial burden and a lack of progress after years of negotiations aimed at reunifying the divided island under a federal system.

Another round of talks between President Giscard D'Estaing and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash is due to begin at U.N. headquarters on May 24.

Since voluntary contributions fail to cover even the 30 per cent of costs to be borne by the United Nations, UNFICYP has a deficit of some \$200 million.

Conditions of Palestinians worsen

AMMAN (Petra) — The closure of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, now in its second month, has deprived Palestinian workers of their livelihoods and caused severe harm to the Palestinian economy, according to a monthly report by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The closure has raised the rate of unemployment among Palestinians to about 55 per cent; as 120,000 workers, who used to work in Israel, face a ban on entry to occupied Jerusalem or Israel, said the report issued Wednesday.

The closure of the territories, it said, has caused a serious deterioration in the health conditions of the Arab people who are banned from entering occupied Jerusalem to receive treatment. The report said that patients calling at the Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem had dropped by 60 per cent and doctors and nurses who

used to come to that hospital from the West Bank are not working there any more.

While the closure continues, Israel's settlement building programme is also continuing, the report said.

Nearly 3.1 million dunums of Arab-owned land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been confiscated and the Israeli

settlements, the report said.

In the past month, 19 Palestinians were killed, raising to 1,428 the total number of Palestinians killed by the Israelis since the beginning of the intifada, the report said.

The report said that Israel's repressive practices against Palestinian education institutions continue unabated and many students from the occupied territories have been deprived of the chance of obtaining education at schools in occupied Jerusalem due to the ban on Arab people's entry into the Holy City.

New fighting front opens in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — A new war front has been opened in Kabul when scores of artillery shells were exchanged by three duelling factions in yet another violation of a two-month-old ceasefire agreement.

Fighting centred around Darulaman Palace at the end of a three-kilometre long avenue linking central Kabul with its southernmost outskirts.

For five hours on Tuesday tank and rocket shells reportedly fired by Hezb-e-Islami faction rebels besieging Kabul exploded in both the palace and surrounding buildings, sending giant plumes of smoke and debris skywards.

The Darulaman area is shared by two military factions, Ahmad Shah Masoud's Defence Ministry forces, and General Abdul Momen's 70th Division Infantry.

Gen. Momen, a deputy of the former pro-communist Uzbek militia warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam, remained neutral in the previous round of factional clashes in Kabul last January-February.

Unconfirmed reports by civilians indicated that Hezb guerrillas attacked Gen. Momen's men early Tuesday forcing them back from one of their frontline positions.

While Hezb shelled Darulaman and adjacent government posts, Defence Ministry batteries in north Kabul bombarded the Hezb shells ignited a huge fire. The Wabdat gunmen speculated an ammunition dump had taken a direct hit.

One hospital admitted 28 injured Tuesday, most hit by shrapnel.

Dozens of people are believed to have been killed in the last six days of fighting, hospitals and officials said.

The exact figure is not known because most are buried rapidly and the administration that should record the toll has been hampered by a year of similar battles since the guerrillas took power.

On the hills behind Darulaman Hezb have positioned tanks in posts that locals said formerly belonged to the defence ministry.

The most vulnerable Defence Ministry post is a former communist secret police garrison surrounded on three sides by renegade rebel factions, with Gen. Momen's men guarding their rear. This too received a heavy pounding by Hezb.

One anti-Masoud faction, the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat, was not involved in the fighting at Darulaman, even though Wahdat and Hezb are allies.

But Wahdat and Mr. Masoud's forces are engaged in a war of attrition elsewhere in Kabul, with daily exchanges of long-range rockets and infantry artillery.

From their frontline bunkers and trenches facing Darulaman, Wahdat guerrillas drank tea and watched with fascination as Hezb rounds bracketed the old palace.

At a Defence Ministry army brigade headquarters just behind the palace, the incoming Hezb shells ignited a huge fire. The Wahdat gunmen speculated an ammunition dump had taken a direct hit.

One hospital admitted 28 injured Tuesday, most hit by shrapnel.

The Islamic coalition government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani accused fighters of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's radical Hezb-e-Islami of taking part.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar were in the eastern city of Jalalabad Tuesday for an 11th day of talks to try to break a deadlock over formation of a cabinet under the terms of a peace pact signed by all the fractious leaders in Pakistan in March.

They showed the bodies of five government soldiers killed in battles for the Defence Ministry, an old palace now pockmarked by rockets and bullets.

Itehdat-e-Islami issued a statement denying any part in the battles.

The Islamic coalition government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani accused fighters of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's radical Hezb-e-Islami of taking part.

Otherwise, Britain's approach to the controversy has been one of mostly quiet "diplomacy" while Western hostages were held by pro-Iran militants in Lebanon. The last hostages were released in 1992.

Mr. Major's meeting with the author culminates a policy switch.

British relations with Iran have been strained since Feb. 4, when foreign office minister Douglas Hogg met with Rushdie.

Iran says Rushdie meeting questions Major's judgement

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's news agency said Wednesday that British Prime Minister John Major's meeting with author Salman Rushdie raised questions about his judgement and said it was likely to harm Britain's trade with Islamic countries.

In the past month, 19 Palestinians were killed, raising to 1,428 the total number of Palestinians killed by the Israelis since the beginning of the intifada, the report said.

The report said that Israel's repressive practices against Palestinian education institutions continue unabated and many students from the occupied territories have been deprived of the chance of obtaining education at schools in occupied Jerusalem due to the ban on Arab people's entry into the Holy City.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE council reasserts claim to islands

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) consultative council

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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To democracy with justice

NOBODY SEEMS to be able to claim that the current elections law in Jordan is perfectly constitutional and democratic. But judging from the ongoing debate, in which many political activists appear to advocate change and which Parliament members seem to resist, it is clear that the law, as it stands, is at best controversial.

On one count at least, the voting age, now fixed at 19, the law can be seen as unconstitutional since the Constitution gives full and equal rights to all citizens who are 18 or older. The fact that the law grants citizens' votes different weights contributes to the notion that the law is also unconstitutional.

The present law was introduced in 1986 and was twice amended by Parliament in 1989 when political parties and political activity were frowned upon or viewed as illegal. The realities and fears of that era have dramatically changed and dissipated since then. The democratic experiment that Jordan launched in 1989 has so far demonstrated that the Jordanian people are politically mature and that fears of political activity leading to turmoil were old hang-ups.

It is true that the long absence of political parties from political life has created many imbalances both in the relationship of political activists with the regime and among themselves. However, the consensus that all political factions reached over the Constitution and the National Charter is a demonstration that all are intent on nurturing and protecting the democratic process.

It is therefore of utmost importance at this juncture to debate the merits and demerits of the present elections law, as His Majesty the King advised recently, and to formulate thereafter a new law that would address the higher interests of Jordan and the Jordanian people as a whole.

But any changes to the law must be made in the most democratic way possible. It might be only sensible therefore to hold a general assembly grouping all political parties, politicians and independent political activists to debate the issue and come up with the necessary amendments that we think are truly needed. Such a consensus agreement can then be either formulated into a temporary law or forwarded to Parliament for approval.

Jordan is on the threshold of becoming a model for democracy in the region. It should carefully calculate its steps on the way to occupy that noble position, but that can only be done when democracy and justice are enjoyed by all our people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily voiced the Arab World's dismay and disappointment at the failure of the peace talks in Washington and said failure can only encourage Israel to go ahead with its practices against the Palestinians. Failure came as a result of Israel's intransigence, on the one hand, and failure by the U.S. administration to live up to its promises and pledges to play the role of full partner in the peace making process, on the other, charged the daily. The paper said that the Israelis continue to reject the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, on which the current negotiations were based, and are offering proposals to the Palestinians which fall far short of achieving their national rights. Without committing itself to the requirements of a just and lasting peace Israel can by no means reach an agreement with the Arab parties, the paper continued. The coming 48 hours can reveal whether the talks will continue on all tracks or whether the two sides will admit that no solution is possible, added the paper. In either case one can only blame or praise the American administration for the success or failure of these talks because, said the paper, the negotiations were sponsored by the United States which ought to see to it that justice is established in fulfilment of international legitimacy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily called on the government to officially declare that Jordan is an impoverished state and suggested that it form a special committee to dedicate its time and effort to addressing poverty which concerns the whole Jordanian public. Usama Shishaa said that no bold speeches or political rhetoric can solve the problem of poverty in Jordan and no campaigns for elections would do any good. The only solution for this chronic issue, he said, is in a strong economic task force, equipped with a scientific mind, a sense of national responsibility, sufficient expertise and sufficient funds. This task force should enjoy unlimited authority in dealing with financial institutions here and abroad and should be able to withstand any kind of pressure from any source, demanded the writer. He said that our only chance to rid the country of poverty lies with the task force and the coming election when the Jordanian people should choose only those persons who they believe can dedicate their time and efforts not to speeches in Parliament, but to addressing economic issues.

M. KAHIL



Once-clear Clinton policy on Bosnia now 'in holding pattern'

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As recently as Friday, President Bill Clinton said that within days the United States and its European allies would agree on military action in Bosnia. On Monday, the White House declared its Bosnia policy in a holding pattern. What happened?

Basically, the administration found that it lacked international support for the military plans, that it was uncertain about its longer-term policy on the former Yugoslavia, and that in the absence of these two ingredients it couldn't make a convincing case for intervention to the American people.

Mr. Clinton found that the Europeans, familiar with the ancient hatreds of the Balkans and wary of a quagmire, were reluctant to take offensive action. He also found scepticism within his administration and Congress about the longer-term goals of such intervention. If the United States bombed Serb artillery targets for several days to silence the guns — as was apparently the plan presented to the Europeans

— what would happen if the Serbs retaliated by attacking U.N. relief troops?

If, as Mr. Clinton wanted, the U.N. lifted its arms embargo and allowed the Muslims to arm themselves, who would deliver the weapons and train the Muslim fighters? The United States has quietly obtained funding from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for such a scheme, but would U.S. troops have to carry it out?

And with the Muslims trained and armed, what incentive would they have to come to the negotiating table? Would the war then spread and engulf volatile neighbouring provinces? Would the United States have to intervene there, too?

"We've got to be very sure what our interests are, what our objectives are, what the costs are going to be, what we can achieve, and how we can get out, and none of those things have been determined, none of them have been articulated to the Congress or to the American people at this point," said Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

If Mr. Clinton knows the answers to these questions, he

isn't saying.

The seeds of Mr. Clinton's dilemma were sown during the election campaign, when he criticised then-President Bush for failing to stop the killings in Bosnia. It was one of the few areas of foreign policy on which Mr. Bush was vulnerable, and Mr. Clinton took advantage.

The reason Mr. Bush chose not to involve the United States in Bosnia, said former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, is that "we were unable to answer those questions about the use of military force that we answered specifically in the case of the Gulf."

Indeed, Mr. Clinton found the going tough when confronted with the hard choices of using military force to carry out his promise.

The turning point came Saturday, after telling a sceptical news corps at a Rose Garden news conference Friday that "there's a lot more agreement than you think" with the Europeans on military force. Mr. Clinton met Saturday with Secretary of State Warren Christopher who had just returned from Europe.

What he heard was a dispiriting

litany of European reluctance: how they preferred to wait for the Bosnian Serb referendum next weekend on the U.N. peace plan, how they wanted to wait for Serbia to enforce its promised embargo against the Bosnian Serbs, how they wanted another U.N. resolution to approve air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs, and Mr. Clinton took advantage.

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What he heard was a dispiriting

Innocence betrayed: European socialism is dying

By William Pfaff

PARIS — There has been a moral collapse of the West European left, implicated in its near-total political collapse. The Socialist movement, which a half-dozen years ago was in power in nine of the 17 major West European nations, survives as a member of only six European governments.

In two of those it is threatened. In Italy, where the entire political system is on the brink of a quasi-revolutionary reconstruction, the Socialist Party is deeply compromised by corruption. Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist prime minister, had to take refuge in parliamentary immunity against the corruption charges brought against him by magistrates.

Spain confronts parliamentary elections June 6, brought forward by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez precisely because of the threat posed to his Socialist government by evidence of corruption among some of his Socialist colleagues.

There is symbolism in the suicide 10 days ago — on May 1, the European workers' holiday — of France's former Socialist prime minister, Pierre Bérégovoy. The symbolism is that of a certain innocence betrayed. No one believes Mr. Bérégovoy corrupt, but his final weeks in government were overshadowed by the revelation that seven years ago, in order to purchase an apartment, he had accepted an interest-free loan from a financier of doubtful reputation, nonetheless a long-time intimate of President François Mitterrand himself.

Mr. Bérégovoy was from an immigrant working-class background and attended a railway trade school with the ambition of becoming a station master. Joining the Socialist Party put him on a different track, which eventually led him to the economy ministry and later the prime ministry. In those offices he was constrained to adopt economic policies that seemed to many of the Socialist rank and file to contradict their social reformism and the utopianism of traditional socialism.

Many French Socialists be-

lieved that Mr. Bérégovoy's commitment to economic austerity and his defence of a strong franc in a period of currency instability did it under the leadership of Willy Brandt as long ago as 1959. The French and Spanish Socialists did so soon after coming to power in the 1980s. All of them — even the Scandinavian Social Democrats — have subsequently found themselves conducting economic and social policies very close to those of rival conservative or centre-right governments.

An austerity dictated by international economic forces has meant high unemployment, higher taxes and reduced social spending. This has seemed not only a betrayal of Socialist idealism but has had the practical consequence of undermining the Socialist parties' electoral base. Working-class votes have tended to be drained off into populist and anti-immigrant movements, or to be split off by social and "cultural" controversies. Middle-class sympathisers have often gone over to the Greens. In Germany, the constitutional debate over political refugees and the use abroad of the army has divided the left.

The Socialist leaders themselves — having no wealthy individual or corporate sponsors — tolerated or invited illegal contributions. Not all of that money was faithfully passed on to party treasuries. Money scandals have had ruinous effect on the political fortunes of the Italian, French and Spanish Socialist parties.

Whether there is a future for socialism now is an interesting question. There will always be a reform party in democratic systems, of course, but it is possible that the Socialist movement itself, with its historical ties to Marxist thought and to discredited conceptions of state ownership of productive resources, now has seen its day.

Its demise will have been speeded by the money corruption of leaders who presented themselves as the moral superiors of their opponents, but the essential fact may be that historical socialism is now a used-up force, and that it is time for something new.

Given that the United States and its allies are highly sceptical of the referendum's feasibility and effectiveness, the allies' next steps are as murky as the civil war in Bosnia.

She said Mr. Clinton would call allied leaders later this week to discuss Bosnia, but she indicated that no decision would be made before the weekend referendum in Bosnia.

The pact, reached among EC leaders in December 1991 in the Dutch town of Maastricht, must be ratified by all 12 EC members before it can take effect. And Denmark isn't the only hurdle.

Britain has not ratified it, preferring to wait and see what the Danes do. Appeals questioning its constitutionality are pending in Germany's highest court.

EC officials and analysts insist the Danes won't turn it down because of the concessions Copenhagen was granted to gain

What if the Danes say 'no' again to European unity?

By Sally Jacobsen
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — For the European Community, it would be a bad dream come true.

On May 18, Denmark votes again on the Maastricht Treaty on closer political and economic links. The Danes have turned it down once and the latest polls show they might turn it down again.

The first time, rejection stalled unity plans. This time, a "no" vote would likely kill the treaty, which mandates a common foreign policy and a single currency by the end of the decade.

It would jolt European currency markets, erode business confidence at a time of recession in many of the dozen EC nations, and raise questions about Denmark's continued membership in the trading bloc.

Although France, Germany and other nations committed to unity are likely to forge ahead without recalcitrant members, negotiating new, less comprehensive treaty could take years.

The result could be a fragmented community and not the powerful, united giant of 340 million people that some Europeans had hoped would rival the United States in world influence and economic strength.

"It would throw the community into disarray," said Yehuda Lukacs, international relations professor at American University in Washington.

A Gallup institute poll published Sunday in a Danish newspaper showed 46 per cent of Danish voters backed the treaty, down from 51 a week ago. The number of opponents swelled to 34 per cent from 30 per cent. Another 15 per cent were undecided and a five per cent planned to abstain.

The drop occurred even though Denmark has been exempted from treaty clauses calling for a common European currency, a joint defence, and other provisions. The concessions were granted after Denmark rejected the treaty in June.

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Britain has not ratified it, preferring to wait and see what the Danes do. Appeals questioning its constitutionality are pending in Germany's highest court.

EC officials and analysts insist the Danes won't turn it down because of the concessions Copenhagen was granted to gain

its support. But the fear of another "no" vote weighs heavily on everyone's mind.

Normally talkative officials are tight-lipped. The EC's executive agency, frequently the target of complaints about excessive bureaucracy, is laying low. So is EC Chief Executive Jacques Delors, a leader of the unity drive.

If the Danes still vote "no", the community will grind to a halt while leaders consider their next move.

Analysts predict Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and probably France would continue the campaign for ward unity, even though the new rightist government in Paris adds some uncertainty to France's pro-Europe stands.

"The result could be a fragmented community and not the powerful, united giant of 340 million people that some Europeans had hoped would rival the United States in world influence and economic strength."

"It would make it clear" that a Danish rejection cannot "block further deepening of the community," said veteran EC consultant Stanley Crossick.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has hinted that even Britain might sign on to a new scheme if the Danes bow out. "I'm not saying that we'll not take part in any other arrangement," he said recently.

Analysts say most EC nations would rally behind proposals for an economic and monetary union, with a joint central bank and a single currency by 1999.

Some nations would also try to pursue a common foreign, security and defence policy. The 10-nation Western European Union already acts like the EC's defence arm. Only Denmark and neutral Ireland do not belong.

Norway and Sweden, Denmark's neighbours, might have second thoughts about membership applications already filed with the EC. But Austria and Finland would go ahead with theirs, analysts predict.

Denmark might feel pressure to leave the community entirely or remain only in the single EC market, formed Jan. 1 when the bloc eliminated many barriers to the flow of money, goods, services and people.



Algeria outlines path for return to democracy

By John Baggaley
Reuter

ALGIERS — After more than a year of emergency rule and bloody conflict with Islamic fundamentalists, Algeria's military-backed government has sketched out a shadowy path for a cautious return to democracy.

In a weekend address, head of state Ali Kafi held out the prospect of more liberalised political activity — paralleled by relentless security pressure to break up armed groups blamed for hundreds of killings.

Mr. Kafi promised a referendum this year on how the return to democracy would be managed.

He did not say what questions would be put but diplomats saw the poll as a crucial first stage which must attract enough votes for the result to be seen as a real consensus.

"The referendum has to attract at least a credible number of voters to provide any legitimacy for future action," a European diplomat said Sunday, hours after Mr. Kafi's address.

"At least there was a reference to a resumption of elections which hasn't been for some time, even if the speech left a lot of questions unanswered," said a Western diplomat.

The speech followed weeks of consultations with different groups as time runs out on the collective presidency whose mandate ends on Dec. 31.

Mr. Kafi said the unelected advisory National Consultative Council would be expanded to take in political parties and other groups, and would be given "reinforced prerogatives."

"There's a flickering light now at the end of the tunnel," a Western diplomat said.

"They seem to be advancing by minute steps but increasingly bringing in the parties who initially denounced the presidency as unconstitutional," said a European envoy.

The five-man presidency was installed after President Chadli Benjedid resigned over the advance of Muslim fundamentalists in a general election. Diplomats said Mr. Chadli was forced out.

The new authorities cancelled the poll, which the fundamentalists

ists looked poised to win, triggering a wave of violence blamed on Muslim radicals whose party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was outlawed last March.

Well over 600 people have been killed since a state of emergency was imposed in February 1992 and the country has been without a parliament for more than a year.

Mr. Kafi promised more talks with political parties and associations on how an unspecified period of "transition" would be "to favour the return to the electoral process."

"This seems to be the starting point for the whole situation. And it was not hedged round by caveats on the security situation as in the past," another diplomat said.

"But it is an absolute minimum (programme) and leaves many questions — how long the transition will take over when this presidency steps down, how do you treat those who supported the FIS and the FFS (Socialist Forces Front)?"

The FIS was credited with over three million votes in the aborted election and the FFS, which has refused to join talks with the presidency, attracted some 500,000. Another five million out of the 13 million electorate abstained.

Mr. Kafi gave an upbeat assessment of the security situation, saying: "The escalation of terrorist acts... is being combated more and more efficiently by security forces."

Poverty is blamed by many for swelling fundamentalist ranks and Mr. Kafi warned that "real democracy" could only emerge from enduring economic development.

He repeated a pledge to move Algeria towards a free market economy, saying this would need imaginative policies opening up to the outside world, restructured industry and competition.

Kafi's speech suggests a three-year "transition at least," one of the diplomats said, adding: "It's still a risky course."

By Najwa Najjar-Kort
Special to the Jordan Times

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The second annual Cinema Nights of Jerusalem, which ended on May 5, was a testimony of the *de facto* separation of the Palestinian and Israeli societies, an issue at the heart of the ongoing Middle East peace talks.

"This film festival reflects a new and welcomed atmosphere, one which clearly divides Palestinians and Israelis," said Daoud Kuttab

president of the Jerusalem Film Institute (JFI), a non-profit organisation founded in May 1991 for the promotion of film consciousness among Palestinians and sponsor of the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem.

Unlike most cultural events held in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the past, there was a noticeable lack of Israeli presence during the festival. "Even journalists were unconcerned and Israeli intellectuals did not show their usual interest (in the festival)," said Mr. Kuttab.

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since late March and the border restrictions were

Israeli absence from Palestinian festival testifies to separate identities

indirect Israeli interference as these measures were responsible for low turnout rates of moviegoers in Jerusalem from the sealed off areas and from the Arab World.

Despite the effects on the festival, this Israeli security siege was considered particularly significant by Palestinians living in the occupied territories and festival sponsors.

The siege, not an unusual measure Israelis adopt, was viewed in light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's recent statements as a separation between Israel and Palestinians.

The "borders" manned on every road leading into East Jerusalem by Israeli soldiers was further proof to Palestinians of the territorial division between the two peoples and a sign of the birth of a Palestinian state.

In response to the siege, the JFI decided to take the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem to Palestinians who could not enter Jerusalem during the festival from April 10-22. JFI members holding Jerusalem Israeli identification cards were able to travel to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to show the 33 films from ten different Arab countries between April 22 and May 5.

"In addition to breaking the security siege on our people by going to them, we also broke the cultural siege. We have been cut off from the Arab World for the past 25 years," said Mr. Kuttab. To combat the cultural blockade, the JFI decided to dedicate this year's film festival to Arab films.

The importance of showing "serious" films produced in the Arab World was stressed by JFI Artistic Director George Khleifi. "What Palestinians see on television and in video stores are cheap, commercially-made Arab films. Films that reflect the realism among Arab filmmakers are unavailable," Mr. Khleifi said.

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, a renowned writer and art critique long before she became known as the articulate spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, reiterated the importance of improving cinema appreciation among Palestinians at the festival's opening speech. Dr. Ashrawi said that the Palestinian cultural movement "is a reflection that the people are alive."

Screenings were made at both the Palestinian National Theatre and the Kasaba Theatre in East Jerusalem. Most of the films shown were long feature films. Because 35mm projectors were not available, the films were projected through video. The films were divided into three categories: Classical Arab films, new Arab releases and Palestinian films.

by filmmakers from Morocco, Lebanon and Tunis. These five directors were given an opportunity to express their opinions on the Gulf war and its effects on the average Arab citizen and intellectual.

Other new releases featured at the festival included Jordan's Nadjat Anzour's film *An Eastern Tale* (1991), Mohammad Malas' award-winning film *The Night* (1992), Moroccan Jilali Farihi's *The Shores of the Lost Children* (1991) and Egyptian Asma Bakri's *Beggars and Noblemen* (1991).

In addition to Mr. Suleiman, only two other directors were able to attend. Their films fell under the Palestinian film category. Hani Abu Assad from Nazareth, now living in Holland, wrote and directed his first short film *Paper House* (1992) and Alia Aroush of Akka, now living in the United States wrote, directed and produced her own documentary *Torn Living* (1993). Ironically, local filmmaker from Beit Jala (less than five miles away from Jerusalem) Hanaa Musleh, who wrote and directed the documentary *We Are God's Soldiers* (1993) was unable to attend the showing of

his film.

Mr. Kuttab said that the JFI had decided to invest in this cultural event despite the internal and external obstacles, especially the meager financial and human resources, "since the only way to place ourselves on the political map in this volatile, unstable atmosphere was to act and not talk."

Mr. Kuttab said that last year's first Cinema Nights of Jerusalem, which was dedicated to Palestinian films, must have been a success, judging from the increased local interest. Its success encouraged the JFI to continue holding the festival and to undertake new projects. Recently, the JFI has embarked on training Palestinians in film and video production and producing films that are shown locally and internationally.

JFI founders hope that the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem will become a permanent feature on the city's agenda, a part which will help in making Jerusalem a cultural capital for Palestinians.

Mr. Kuttab, himself a writer, has recently returned from Jerusalem and is currently working as a filmmaker in Amman.



Various scenes from the movies shown at this year's Cinema Nights of Jerusalem festival



Police, ANC form tentative bond in S. Africa

By Judith Matloff
Reuter

PRETORIA — A white policeman affably hands a megaphone to an ANC activist calling for the end of white minority rule, an image of new, tentative cooperation between South Africa's traditional foes.

White police wrestle to the ground a white rightwinger who shot dead two black protesters. African National Congress (ANC) township officials hand over to police thugs who killed a journalist. Police and ANC organisers huddle at rallies to stop looters and rioters.

As South Africa takes halting violent steps towards multi-racial democracy, cooperation once unthinkable is emerging between the ANC government-in-waiting and its erstwhile police enemies.

The ANC still accuses the police of shooting unarmed township protesters and senior police officials question its ability to control its followers.

Since the April 10 murder of black Communist Party leader Chris Hani, the two sides have been thrown together to save the country from violent disaster. At least 80 people, most of them blacks, have been killed in violence since Mr. Hani's death.

But police and the ANC have struck delicate, unprecedented deals to ensure potentially explosive rallies were largely orderly.

"Cooperation was good," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said last month after police and ANC marshals working together ensured mourning ceremonies for Mr. Hani that drew tens of thousands of blacks were mainly peaceful."

"What has been played out this week is instructive — this is the embryonic stage of joint control of the security forces."

The ANC and other black anti-apartheid groups taking part in multi-party negotiations on a transition to democracy are demanding joint control over South Africa's white-led security forces along with black guerrilla groups.

The police force is 60 per cent black and the government late last year appointed its first three non-white generals.

Except for one day of urban riots and some isolated incidents, Mr. Hani's funeral and other memorial events were largely peaceful as police and ANC officials consulted to ensure white rightists did not attack protesters and township anger did not spill

out of control.

The cooperation has been superb," said a U.N. observer in Pretoria, the seat of white power where ANC and police officials walked side by side to maintain order at a march.

At one point a white policeman

leant ANC organiser Donise Khumalo his megaphone so his supporters could hear calls for black

majority rule.

The march on police headquarters was technically banned by the city council but police said they had decided to let it go ahead to defuse tensions.

"They've been very disciplined," Colonel Royce Menton said of the ANC marshals, looking calmly on as they delivered a statement at the headquarters

calling for the end of the government he serves.

"The cooperation has been exemplary, an example for the rest of the country," Mr. Khumalo agreed.

But while collaboration may be

emerging on the ground, many on

both sides of the old war are slow to be convinced.

NON-STOP TO THE GULF



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جوي الراشد

Computers and productivity

By Jean-Claude Elias

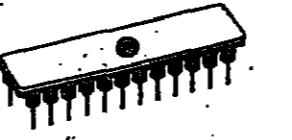
At an evening outing recently, I had a heated argument with someone I had just met and who seemed a regular reader of this column. We actually had two arguments. The first one started on the never ending IBM-compatible vs Apple-Macintosh subject but didn't last very long for we both knew we wouldn't come out with a clear winner.

The second topic was about whether computers have brought more productivity to the world. According to the information this gentleman had, the huge base of 20 million (I could not verify the number but it seems possible to me) personal computers (PC), in the United States did not increase productivity. Computers made work faster, better, created new jobs, allowed very difficult or dangerous tasks to be performed, opened new horizons in science, education and other fields but did not improve productivity at all, the gentleman added.

If someone took into consideration the real investment in even the simplest computerisation, be it personal, business or industry oriented, the figure actually could be quite high. The total cost includes the purchase of the hardware, the cost of maintaining it in good working condition and then replacing it an average of every four to five years, the regular purchase of consumables (disks, ribbons, stationery, etc...), the cost of manpower, of training and the price of software with its continuous and unavoidable updates.

Looking at computers this way makes some users wonder why they ever gave up on traditional manual work and what they got in return for their investment! The danger in discussing computer productivity is in making an under-

chip talk



standable but regrettable confusion between productivity and feasibility. Moreover, if we exclude industrial robots — they are a very special case — who said that computers had to increase productivity?

Computers help us avoid repetitive and tedious work, their calculating power is not to be proven anymore, they have also become our reliable mass memory and we already can't do without them — try to make a airline reservation or check your bank account balance when the main computer is down. By relieving us from programmed, automatic and "non-thinking" tasks, computers allow us to concentrate on other problems and issues, those that need our human intervention and decision-making capability, not always based on coldly computed data.

Discussing computer productivity is therefore not relevant. At least not as a global subject. One could study the increase in productivity in very specific and well defined cases of computerisation, but certainly not in general.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

CAPITALS

Amman

- Capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and chief industrial centre.
- Population: Approx. 1,400,000.
- Rabbath-Ammon of the Bible, and the Greek Philadelphia in the 3rd century B.C.
- Rebuilt by Ptolemy Philadelphus.
- Centre of a road network and on the Cairo-Baghdad air route.
- University of Jordan established here, 1962.
- The great influx of refugees following the war with Israel in 1948 more than quadrupled the population in the 1950s.
- Distinguished by its up-to-date, luxurious villas, orchards, parks; youth centres; modern, clean, wide macadamised roads and motorways; splendid, air-conditioned international airport; ancient ruins; tolerance and hospitality of its people.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A TRAFFIC jam suddenly took place in Beirut. Accordingly, a physician operated on himself an appendectomy while stationing his car in the middle of the street.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

DOCTOR: "I've examined you thoroughly and I think that all you need is a good rest."

WOMAN PATIENT: "But I feel that I need some medicine. Why don't you look at my tongue?"

DOCTOR: "That needs a rest, too."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

HUMOUR

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WOMAN PATIENT: "But I feel that I need some medicine. Why don't you look at my tongue?"

DOCTOR: "That needs a rest, too."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

MRS. DOUBLETON: "I'm always having trouble with either my husband or the furnace."

MRS. SYMPLETON: "How's that?"

MRS. DOUBLETON: "Whenever I watch one the other goes out!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

MR. JONES: (on the phone) "Hello? Dr. Smith?"

DOCTOR: "Yes."

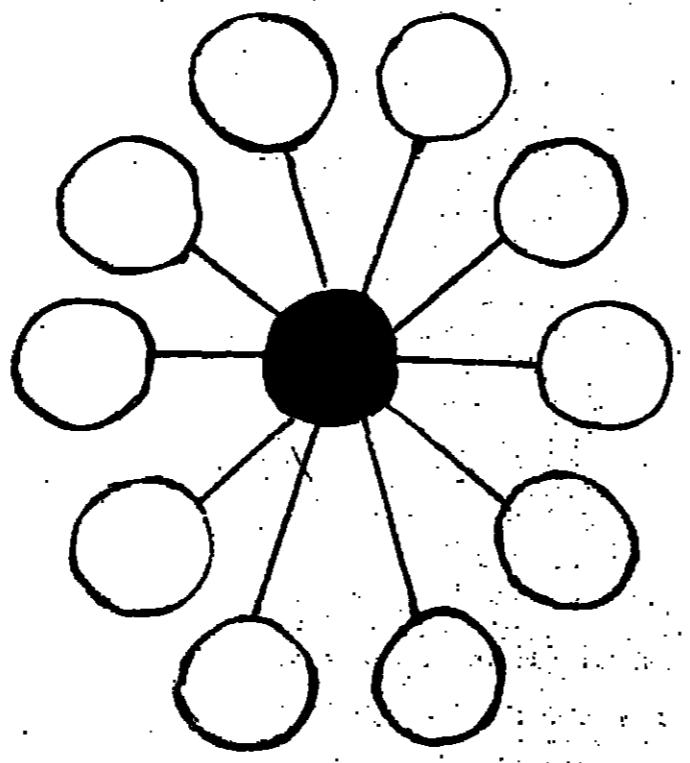
MR. JONES: "My wife has just dislocated her jaw. If you should be in the neighbourhood in the next couple of weeks or so maybe you'd drop in and have a look at her!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

(A) ARRANGE THE NUMBERS

Can you arrange the numbers from "1" to "11" in the circles shown so that the total of the numbers along any straight line becomes the same as any other such total?



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(B) DO IT QUICKLY, PLEASE

A man ate 100 grapes in five days, each day eating 6 more than on the previous day.

How many grapes did he eat on the first day?

HAPPY DREAMS

FASTING: A dream of fasting suggests that you need to make amends for some past injustice; get on with it; the sooner it is done the quicker you will be able to forget it.

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HUNGER: A dream of being hungry may be regarded as a promise of better times ahead; to dream of others being hungry predicts money luck, possibly through an unexpected legacy.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

THIRST: An obstacle dream which suggests that you are an aggressive leader. The meaning depends on whether or not you quenched your thirst. If you did so at a well or a spring, your success will be beyond your highest expectations.

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BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

The United Nations

- The United Nations was founded in 1945 as the successor to the League Of Nations.
- In 1945, there were 51 members of the original United Nations, now more than 180 countries.
- Trygve Lie of Norway was the first Secretary-General serving from Feb 1, 1946 until April 10, 1953.

When the sun never smiles

By E. Yaghi

Maher liked to make pictures for his teacher Salwa. Whenever conditions allowed his attending school and he had an art class, he drew with vivid colours the feelings that lived in his heart. "Well, Maher," his teacher said one spring morning when the sky was blue and all the world should have appeared green and sweet, "what are you going to draw for me today?"

"The six-year-old sat and pondered and then answered. "I'll draw whatever you like, miss."

"All right then," she replied, "why don't you do a picture of a zoo?"

So he set to work amongst the other students who bent their heads close to their desks. He thought and thought and finally drew a small monkey in a cage. In the background he put an elaborate Palestinian flag with a Star of David at its centre and blood dripping from its folds. He took his crayons and coloured his picture and when his teacher passed by his desk again, he showed her his accomplishment.

She picked up his artwork and stared at the sketch and said, "Maher, I am so impressed with your work. Someday you will become a great artist. But for now, let's hang your picture on the wall so that everyone can see it."

After school, Maher ran home. He carefully slipped past the Israeli soldiers loaded with ammunition who patrolled his area and glared at him as though he had committed a crime, but he continued on his way, trying to take no notice of them. When he reached his cement house with the tin roof, he burst through the door and threw his books on the kitchen table and said to his mother who was cooking. "Hi, mommy, what's for lunch?"

"We're going to have soup. Tell me," she said, turning back to admire him, "how was your day at school? Did you have fun? Remember what I told you, always come straight home and don't throw stones!"

Boy, being an only child was really rough and having no dad made it even harder, but all he said to his doting mother was, "yes, I had fun in art class. I drew a picture of a zoo. Miss Salwa liked it and hung it up on the board. And hey, I promised you that I wouldn't throw rocks at anybody, not even if all the boys in school do, okay?"

"All right, good boy, that's my son! Go wash your hands so we can eat."

The next day, a soft rain that had started in the night, pattered on the tin roof. Maher was dressed and ready for school and was gathering his books when he asked: "Mom, does it rain in spring? I thought you said that summer was on its way and we had seen the last of this kind of weather until winter."

She tidied his shirt and answered: "That's true but maybe this year God sent us extra so that more flowers will grow."

"That reminds me. I want to take some pink roses to my art teacher. She loved them."

He deserted his books and rushed out into the small garden that his mother kept up in her lonely hours when he was away at school. Raindrops wet his face and sprinkled his clothes as he picked some roses. One thorn pricked his finger and he cried out, "ouch" and then ran back inside to let his mother tie his flowers and bandage his sore.

He told his mother good-bye and skipped to school past the soldiers. He proudly marched up to his teacher's office and knocked on the door which was slightly ajar. A voice from behind the desk said: "Come in. Hello Maher. What have you got for me today?"

"Nothing much, miss, just some roses." She took the small bundle from him and removed the

paper that protected them. "Just what I love, roses, and pink at that." She lifted them to her nose and added: "Mmmm, they smell so lovely. Thank you. I'll see you in class."

Later, after the art session started, Miss Salwa announced: "Today children, I want everyone to draw whatever you feel like and be sure to colour your work. Again, the best pictures will be hung on the board."

There was a rustle of paper, then all was quiet as all the pupils busied themselves in their own world of art. What they could not say in words, they could express in pictures. Palestine dwelled in their hearts and occupation was a reality of their lives. Maher thought for a minute and immediately began to draw. He continued most of the period in deep concentration and used the colours he figured appropriate for the occasion. When he finished, his teacher approached him and exclaimed: "All right, let's see what you did."

Her eyes opened wide as she spoke. "Oh, Maher, this is perfect. We must hang it on the board."

She silently pinned his picture up among the others. He beamed with pride as his classmates gathered around to admire it. There it was in all its glory, the Dome of the Rock with a Palestinian flag flying from one of its sides and above it was the sun which was crying tears of blood. He had tried to capture the exquisite colours of the sacred mosque, one of the holiest Islamic shrines in the world. But the most effective of all was the morose sun who judged the tragedy of the scene below, one of occupation and oppression of an innocent people.

"That's it for today, kids. Put your things away. Tomorrow's Thursday, so enjoy your weekend. See you on Saturday, encha allah."

As they filed out of the room, the children said good-bye. When Maher passed her, his eyes met hers. She ruffled his hair, saying: "Such a good picture. So much feeling. I hope one day the sun will smile on Palestine and we will be free."

"Me too" he said and skipped out the door.

Outside, the rain had stopped. The sky was still cloudy and there was no sun, but there was a good fresh smell as if God had washed all the world and given it a cleaner, greener look. Maher slowed down when he neared the soldiers, eyeing them suspiciously. He walked quickly, his heart beating rapidly, feeling uncomfortable and had almost rounded the corner away from their sight when all at once, a searing pain tore through his back and then everything turned black.

He woke up in a hospital. He rubbed his eyes and then saw his mother sitting beside him, her face smudged and looking sad. Next to her sat Miss Salwa. He tried to speak but his voice seemed lost inside his frail body. Then, somewhere he found the strength to say: "Mommy, what happened? Why am I here? Why do I have so much pain?"

His mother rose slowly and stood at the side of the bed. The scent of medicine was everywhere and overpowered him. The white sheets felt coarse and unfriendly. "You'll be all right son," his mother said convincingly. "Look, here's Miss Salwa. She's come to pay you a visit and talk to you about your artwork!"

There is a hope of peace as the talks between Arabs and Israelis continue, but meanwhile, the brutality and torture of a suffering people goes on: Maher was shot in the spine as he was walking home. He threw no stones. He is the only child of his widowed mother and to add to her sorrow, he will never walk again. The bullet paralysed him from the waist down. Perhaps he can draw pictures for the rest of his life and remember those days of his past when he could run and skip. What else can he do in a land where the sun never smiles?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 13

8:30 Special Programme

9:10 Quantum Leap

Starring: Scott Bakula and Dean Stockwell



Quantum Leap is an innovative time-travel series centring on Sam Beckett whose efforts to return to present day, following a flawed experiment, keep him bouncing back and forth in time — mostly from the mid-50's through the mid-70's — replacing people he never knew or heard of. While television viewers will see Sam as he sees himself, those around him see as the person he replaced. This proves both challenging and amusing, sometimes providing high drama as the perplexed hero valiantly tries to live the life he has been forced to assume without any of the person's skills or knowledge. His partner on the Quantum Leap project, the Observer, who appears as a hologram only Sam can see or hear, guides him, but sometimes provides more problems than help.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Absolute Strangers

Starring: Henry Winkler

Friday, May 14

8:30 ALF

9:10 E.N.G.

Scratches on a plastic wall

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Saturday, May 15

8:30 Super Sleuthers And New Practical Jokes

Death At Seat

Bradley Gets Fired

9:10 Documentary — Dinosauar
A Tale Of An Egg

Only when a dinosaur's egg was discovered, did scientists come to know how complex these animals were.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

Missing

A Vietnamese lady comes to Adam's house and asks him to find her husband who went missing in Vietnam in 1973. She believes that he is still alive.

Tuesday, May 18

8:30 Beadles About

9:10 Forever Green

Young Tom has a new friend, a Polish immigrant, who teaches Tom fishing.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — A Scent Of Autumn

Starring: Delphine Seyrig

Wednesday, May 19

8:30 Chance In A Million

Winning streak

Tom is a lucky guy. He keeps on winning prizes easily.

Curtains to fall to save crumbling Covent Garden

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

LONDON — London's Covent Garden Opera is to shut down for two years for an ambitious but essential modernisation scheme which critics fear could result in bankruptcy.

While most major European cities have rebuilt or refurbished their opera houses since 1945, the Covent Garden stage graced by superstars ranging from Maria Callas to Luciano Pavarotti is still powered by a World War I submarine engine.

Scene shifting is such a laborious process that the stage is sometimes ready only minutes before the curtain rises. Space in the white-pillared 1858 building is so cramped that dancers of the Royal Ballet have to travel across London on public transport from their rehearsal rooms to performances.

"It is not possible to do good work economically or efficiently in this beloved but increasingly decrepit 19th century theatre," said General Director Jeremy Isaacs.

"It may be British to muddle through but it just isn't good enough. We need a developer that works."

Covent Garden authorities say modernisation is not only desirable but "essential if the Opera House is to continue to fulfill its mission into the 21st century."

But to carry out the work, the opera and ballet house must find £150 million (\$230 million) in finance and shut its doors in 1997 for two years before a planned reopening on New Year's Eve 1999.

It's a tall order for a state-subsidised arts company which, despite charging the highest ticket prices in the world, is already running a £3.6 million (\$5.5 million) deficit and is frequently accused of catering to an elite

minority.

A report by Britain's Council last year advised the Covent Garden board to abandon the scheme which has already taken 10 years in battles with planning authorities and is turning the opera company into a property developer.

Britain's Conservative government, which last year provided subsidies of some £19 million (\$29 million) to Covent Garden, has refused to contribute extra funds for modernisation.

Covent Garden is therefore relying on raising £45 million (\$70 million) through a public appeal to be launched at the end of 1993 and an as yet undisclosed sum from Britain's new National Lottery for the Arts and Sport.

But the bulk of the funding is dependent on profits from a planned commercial development of shops and offices on part of the Covent

Garden site, a prospect which critics say is fraught with dangers given the recession and plummeting property prices.

The climate of the commercial property market today raises questions about the likelihood of those profits being realised, as well as the effect of this uncertainty on potential donors," the Arts Council report said.

The report said that raising £45 million from the public was "a challenging target" and noted there were no concrete plans for touring by the opera and ballet companies during the closure period.

Covent Garden, however, says the danger is not so much of going bust as falling apart. It is determined to press ahead with the scheme and win the support of the vast popular audience for opera that has sprung up in Britain in the 1990s.

A new nationwide commercial radio station playing classical music highlights is a

runaway success after seven months on the air and recordings by Pavarotti and Polish composer Henryk Gorecki have won new fans among pop-music lovers.

The revamped opera house will create an extra 113 seats. New technology backstage will increase the number of performances, keeping prices in check.

The best seats for productions featuring top singers currently cost about £200 (\$300) — double those at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

The Royal House Board also plans more spacious public areas, including restaurants and bars open to visitors all day.

"The Royal Opera House lives on borrowed time," it said, warning of the impending threat of closure posed by prospective European Community directives on health and safety.



London's Covent Garden Opera

The choice, it says, is simple. "A decaying theatre in Covent Garden, sooner or later derelict or empty, would be a national disgrace a living theatre on this site, a source of public satisfaction and national pride".

Art world celebrates Miro centenary

By Robert Hart
Reuter

as a shy man who sought anonymity but nevertheless felt deeply immersed in society.

He was, she said, "the most universal and yet most Catalan of artists."

"The fact is that Miro is the artist who opened most doors to all forms of expression."

Last Tuesday, Spain's Queen Sofia opened the prize event of "Miro Year", an exhibition of 180 paintings and 300 drawings.

Together, they offer a chronological scan of the artist's development from the intensely coloured, representational work of his youth to the later sparse, symbolic lines and spaces.

The Miro Foundation, organisers of one of the most extensive displays of Miro's work ever staged, with exhibits loaned by galleries, museums and private collections in Europe, the United States and Japan, expects more than 300,000 visitors before it moves to New

York's Museum of Modern Art in September.

Other exhibitions of different facets of Miro as well as conferences and seminars, are being held in Barcelona, Madrid and Majorca, where he lived for many years.

At a gala inauguration, thousands of invited guests queued for hours for admission to the foundation's gallery on Montjuic Hill, with panoramic views of Barcelona.

Musicians seated around the floodlit roof of the building and on the lawns, followed the baton of composer Carlos Santos on television monitors as he conducted specially written music from a parapet overlooking the city.

Malat said the exhibition has two aims: "To present the key works in Miro's development and to show his method of working."

She said the foundation's own collection of more than 5,000 sketches and preparatory drawings showed that Miro's greatest works, some-

times seen as spontaneous and almost childlike, were in fact the result of complex thought and reworking.

The exhibition begins with vibrant oils of landscapes around Mont-Roig, in Tarragona province, where Miro's parents had a small farm.

The culmination of his figurative phase came with "La Masia" (The Farm), painted in 1922, which he described as "a resume of my life in the country" and which contains the main themes of the young Miro — landscape, sun, household implements and minute movements of nature, all depicted in intense colours.

In 1924 Miro signed the first surrealist manifesto, drawn up by French writer André Breton, and began his first surrealist painting, "The Carnival Of Harlequin", a crowded patchwork of symbols which startled even the surrealists.

Miro later confessed the picture was in part the product of hallucinations caused by hunger.

Breton called Miro "the most surreal of the surrealists" while American playwright Edward Albee wrote:

"From the surrealist root,

Miro produced a flower of singular beauty, even surpassing the original impetus."

In 1929 Miro broke with surrealism and declared he wanted to "assassinate" painting, which he felt had lost its way.

This rebellion led him to try other techniques such as drawing, pastels, collage and three-dimensional formats, culminating in a series of "paintings from a collage" in 1933.

The outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936 drove

Miro to produce the dramatic poster "Aidez Espagne" (Help Spain).

He also turned back to representational painting, notably "Still Life With Old Shoe" (1937), which he himself described as "with the farm, the foremost piece in

my oeuvre, which I hope however to surpass later on."

World War II saw Miro painting to escape from the hostile environment around him and moving again to a more poetic style featuring the interplay of symbolic forms and space.

"I purposely became wrapped up in myself. Night, music and the stars began to play a more important role in suggesting paintings to me," he wrote from a Normandy village where he began a series of 23 gouaches entitled "Constellations."

Miro's later work was sparse and uncluttered, with lines and forms in black and primary colours on simple backgrounds.

Of the triptych "Mural Painting For A Temple", completed in 1962, he said:

"By limiting myself to a few lines I have tried to give the gesture such an individual quality that it is almost anonymous — like a universal act."

Asian star tries to make it big in Hollywood

By Ernest Sander
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tran Quang describes himself as a combination of Sylvester Stallone, Marlon Brando and Michael Douglas. Even in real life, the former Vietnamese screen star's expression can be brooding. A sour hint at scuffles, while an ever-smoldering cigarette dangles from his mouth.

But despite performing in 40-plus Vietnamese films and television shows and developing a significant following in his country, the closest he's gotten to a U.S. movie set is two auditions.

"If my wish comes true, I can learn how to make a movie in Hollywood," said Quang.

Quang is plainly enamored of Hollywood. He has seen "Gone With The Wind" 13 times — his thin mustache was inspired by Clark Gable, and he greatly admires Brando in "On The Waterfront".

His career as a leading man began in 1968 at age 24 and led to four Vietnamese Actor of the Year Awards. Then the Communists took over in 1975 and banned him from acting.

Four years later, they decided to let Quang appear in movies again. But he had decided to leave the country.

In 11 years, he tried to escape 32 times, each time doomed by unreliable boats or captains afraid of reprisals for helping a celebrity flee the country. Three times, Quang said, he wound up in prison.

Now he's finally out — he arrived in Westminster, a city about 48 kilometres south of Los Angeles in February 1992 — yet the glory days remain distant.

"We have so many South East Asian or Asian actors or aspiring actors already. There is no very promising place for him to start with the casting offices in Hollywood," said Tran Quang, and his apartment in Monte Carlo.

Ms. Sverrisdottir, who sat with her husband during an interview at the Met, coaches the tenor on his acting.

"I go to the rehearsals, and I can see when he wants to do some movement, but he kills it," she said.

The boys' names are typical of Iceland, an island in the North Atlantic with 250,000 people, 2 million sheep and a millennium-long history of Nordic sagas, Danish rule and independence in 1944.

While revelling in Italian melodies, Johannsson has not forgotten the music of his motherland. His most recent recording is devoted to Icelandic songs, accompanied by a London orchestra.

It was a hit back home — where every fourth Icelandic family owns one, Johannsson said proudly.

He never learned even the most basic directing techniques — not all that surprising in a country where the cameras are "literally from the '50s" and the majority of films are shot on videotape, as film expert Jeff Gilmore put it.

Eventually, Quang said, he would like to bring the Vietnamese film industry into the modern age.

Gilmore, head of programming for UCLA's Film and Television Archives and director of the Sudanese Film Festival, recounted a recent visit to the United States by a group of Vietnamese film executives, illustrating the country's technology gap.

"They bought video cameras here to take back. We're talking about the guys who are running the industry," he said.

Quang's films such as "The Wild Horse", "Mission 709" and "Like An Evening Dewdrop" are highly regarded by the Vietnamese — each won Quang a Best-actor Award in the early '70s — but few in the United States have even heard of the movies, much less seen them.

"There are very few possibilities for films to be shown outside the country," said Gilmore, who was last in Vietnam five years ago.

As he hopes for a nibble from Hollywood, Quang is teaching at an acting school and second wife, My-Ha Ho.

She immigrated to the United States in 1975, and in a 1990 visit to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) bumped into Quang in a nightclub. The two, who once dated, had not seen each other in 15 years but reprised their affair.

As Quang's fiancee, she petitioned the U.S. government and was able to get approval for Quang to leave Vietnam.

Various members of Quang's family, including his children from a previous marriage, mother and father, live in the Orange County area, which has a sizable Vietnamese immigrant population.

At the Tet Festival in Westminster this year, heads occasionally turned toward Quang. One man darted out and stopped him, clutching Quang's arm. Behind him, the man's wife and her friends stood grinning, their cameras ready to capture the moment.

"I know him because he is a movie star," 41-year-old Tran Ba said. "This (is) the first time ever to see him."

Chinese cinema celebrated abroad but troubled at home

By Philippe Massonnet
Agence France Press

Communist Party.

The statistics more than back up that observation, underlining a free fall in movie attendance.

Admissions to less glamorous cinemas plunged from 2.7 billion in 1987 to 1.7 billion in 1989 and continued falling to just 1.1 billion entries in 1991, the last year for which figures are available.

But for one of China's most celebrated directors, Chen Kaige, it is more simple.

"It's a problem of the quality of the films," says Chen, whose "Farewell To My Concubine" has been chosen as an

official selection at the 46th Cannes Film Festival, which opens Thursday. It will be his third entry in the glamourous competition in five years.

As the young independent filmmaker Zhang Yuan sees it, there are too few such gems.

"There were 10 strong films last year among 160 products," said the recognised leader of China's cinema avant garde.

And foreign recognition can have its perils: many Chinese critics make of internationally acclaimed films, such as Zhang Yimou,

director of "Raise The Red Lantern and The Story Of Qiu Ju", for making movies aimed at Western audiences.

Another factor turning off film buffs is the flood of films with heavily ideological messages which followed the tightened controls on ideology introduced after the crushing of the democracy movement in 1989.

But there is more to the crisis in Chinese cinema than disenchantment among audiences "now more preoccupied by the money than by culture," as the editor of one cultural magazine put it.

The state's decision that from the beginning of 1993

the making of films would be decided by the market, in contrast to the past, when productions were subsidised and officials looked after distribution, has had a dramatic effect on production.

For the first time in Chinese cinematic history, there was no filming of major feature films this year until April.

"With economic reform and the state's financial disengagement, the studios don't want to take any risks," said Zhang Yuan.

But there is more to the hope that he'll win a few parts in Hollywood and somehow pick up enough movie-making secrets to direct his own film back in

Vietnam.

While pursuing his acting career, Quang served in the South Vietnamese army, often alongside Americans. The war story, he said, has yet to be told from the South Vietnamese perspective.

"I need to do something to tell the world why Americans died for our country, not like movies I've seen where they are fighting for nothing," Quang said. "Because I know, I've been with them."

"They do that to save money. ... But I was a little worried, a little hysterical," he said, half-joking.

It was a baptism by fire. "I just stood there, and the curtain opened. And I said to myself, 'wow'."

So did the audience.

In March, billed with tenor Plácido Domingo, Johannsson sang the role of the fickle Sicilian lover Turiddu in Pietro Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana". For the second half of the evening, Domingo was the love-torn,

tragic clown in Ruggiero Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

Domingo received a roaring ovation. Johannsson brought down the house.

With two of the superstar tenors, Luciano Pavarotti and Domingo, in their 50s, and the third, Jose Carreras, performing less after surviving leukemia, Johannsson is well on his way to becoming the next great tenor.

He will sing Verdi's "Aida" for the September opening night of the Vienna State Opera — a great accolade. He also will start the season at Chicago's Lyric Opera with a new production of Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca." And in July, Johannsson and Domingo are to appear together again in Verona, Italy, to open the prestigious summer festival at the ancient Roman arena there.

Johannsson may be new to the stratosphere of the international opera world — dominated by no more than a dozen stars — but he's worked hard for 15 years

Study suggests moderate drinking raises risk of breast cancer

By Paul Reichman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two alcoholic drinks a day are enough to raise hormone levels in women and put them at greater risk of developing breast cancer, according to a study at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The research provides a possible reason that other studies have shown an increase of breast cancer among women who drink, said Marsha E. Reichman, who did the research while at the National Cancer Institute.

Diet and disease research over the last 10 years have shown that women who drink

moderately have a breast cancer risk that is 40 to 100 per cent greater than women who don't drink. Other studies have associated Estrogen, a hormone, with breast cancer.

Dr. Reichman said the new study is the first to provide a link between the earlier findings.

"This is the first study to suggest that the mechanism by which alcohol affects breast cancer risk may be the increase in hormones caused by alcohol," she said.

A report on the study was published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Ironically, the study comes

soon after Boston researchers reported that three drinks a day may reduce the risk of heart attacks by up to 50 per cent.

The studies reflect an effort by biological scientists to relate the chemistry of diet to disease. Other studies have shown that conditions such as heart disease, cancer and stroke are linked to dietary habits in some people.

In the breast cancer study, one of Dr. Reichman's co-authors, Joseph T. Judd, said the goal of his field is to determine precisely how different chemicals influence the risk of disease. Eventually, he said, science may hit on the perfect diet that will enable people to avoid disease.

causing eating habits.

"We are far from knowing the whole story on diet and disease now," said Dr. Judd, a scientist at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Centre of the Department of Agriculture.

In the study, 34 women were divided into two groups and tested for effects of alcohol through six menstrual cycles. Throughout the study, the women were on controlled diets so that the only dietary difference was the alcohol. Blood and urine tests were taken for three days during three phases of the menstrual cycle.

For half of the study, one group of women were given

nightly 30 grammes of pure grain alcohol mixed in orange juice. The other group was given orange juice without the alcohol. For the second half of the study, the groups reversed their alcohol use. In this way, both halves of the study group received the alcohol dose for three menstrual cycles.

Blood tests showed increases in Estrogen of up 31.9 per cent during the middle phase of the menstrual cycle, the peri-ovulatory phase, for women who were drinking. Urine tests showed a similar increase in Estrogen excreted during the luteal, or final, phase of the menstrual cycle for those on alcohol. Little change was found in the car-

ly, or follicular, part of the cycle.

In an editorial published with the study, Dr. Matthew P. Longnecker of the UCLA School of Public Health said the findings may not be relevant to most women since studies have shown that fewer than 3 per cent of American women drink 30 grammes of alcohol daily.

Dr. Judd said that the alcohol used was pure, or 200 proof. He said that 30 grammes of the beverage is approximately equal to the amount of alcohol used in two "very strong" mixed drinks, such as Martinis.

Both Dr. Judd and Dr. Reichman said that more study is

said Dr. Judd, "people have to consider overall risk factors for disease."

Women who have high risk factors for breast cancer, he said, could consider avoiding alcohol since the beverage clearly aggravates the risk. Among the known breast cancer risks are a family history of the disease and certain types of breast cysts.

Dr. Judd said that for people at high risk of heart disease, moderate alcohol use could help reach a blood chemistry that benefits the heart.

"People have to consider all of the overall risk factors, such as family history, in making decisions about alcohol use," he said.

needed before they could make a recommendation on the use of alcohol. They said alcohol, as with other parts of the human diet, affects people differently and affects parts of the body differently.

For instance, Dr. Judd said the women in the new study were also tested for cholesterol levels. Those drinking the alcohol, he said, were found to have higher levels of High Density Lipoprotein, the so-called "good" cholesterol that is thought to combat heart disease. Similar results were reported over the weekend in a study by a group of Boston researchers.

In making dietary decisions based on what is now known,

has distributed a questionnaire to women with implants in an effort to determine how widespread the problem might be.

Susan Cruzan, an FDA spokeswoman, said the agency had reviewed the survey. FDA officials are aware of the reports of health problems in the children, she said.

Dow Corning said 5,400 lawsuits have been filed against the company in connection with breast implants.

Doctors probe disease in children of mothers with breast implants

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Symptoms of unusual immune disorders have been found in children of mothers with breast implants, raising questions about whether silicone might be contaminating breast milk or seeping into the womb, doctors said.

Only a few cases have so far been examined, and doctors are reluctant to draw any connection. But at least two

doctors have begun studies of the children, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been monitoring the situation.

"It would be unfair to the women to say this is definitely a problem, or not a problem," said Dr. Jeremiah Levine of Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, N.Y., because the evidence is too preliminary. Nevertheless, he said, "there's reason to be con-

cerned and there's reason to look at it a bit better."

Dr. Levine, a pediatric gastroenterologist, said he has examined a dozen children of mothers with implants. "I saw several children who had intestinal complaints," he said.

When he examined them, he found an unusual collection of symptoms that could be characteristic of immune disorders. "Then, looking back in the history, the only thing that was unusual was

that the mothers had implants," he said.

Dr. M. Eric Gershwin of the University of California, Davis, also is studying what seems to be symptoms of immune disorders in children of mothers with implants.

"We are currently seeing children who perhaps have had some problems relating to their mother's implants," said Dr. Gershwin, chief of rheumatology, allergy and clinical immunology.

One of the FDA's concerns was that breast implants might be somehow disrupting

the body's immune system, triggering a reaction that could lead to disease.

In March, the Dow Corning Corp., developer of silicone breast implants, reported that the silicone gel in the implants altered the immune systems of laboratory rats. Studies to determine the effect of implants on the human system are under way at Dow Corning and elsewhere.

In a statement, Dow Cor-

ning said "there is presently no convincing scientific evidence" to show that breast implants cause disease in women or children nursed by mothers with breast implants.

The company said it had done one study to look for silicone in breast milk of women with implants but didn't find any. Dow Corning stopped making breast implants in March 1992.

Working with a patient advocacy group, Dr. Levine

of Ganciclovir for a few hours every day, Dr. Duker said.

Physician Ran Zeiner of the University of Illinois at Chicago said his team was using laser beams and microscopic fatty bubbles to deliver drugs to the hard-to-reach retina, at the back of the eye, to treat diseases such as macular degeneration. The disease, which destroys light-sensing cells in the retina, is the leading cause of blindness in people over 50 in developed nations.

Dr. Duker reported last year that repeated bouts of AIDS-related Cytomegalovirus Retinitis — a blinding condition — were prevented in 90 per cent of 30 patients implanted with the plastic-covered pellets, which slowly released the drug Ganciclovir for either four or eight months.

Researchers now have tried the eight-month pellets in another 28 patients, and found they were 93 per cent effective, Dr. Duker said. The pellets keep the drug in the eye, where it is needed, and out of the blood, where it can cause potentially deadly anemia when given intravenously.

The pellets are cheaper and more convenient than getting intravenous infusions

Eyes zapped, implanted with pellets in fight against blindness

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

UNIVERSAL CITY, California — A vaccine, drug pellets and laser-zapped fat bubbles show promise for preventing blindness caused by herpes, AIDS and diseases

that kill the eye's light-sensing cells, scientists said.

The vaccine to prevent repeated herpes eye infections and fatty bubbles that deliver sight-saving drugs might be widely available in five years, experts said at a seminar sponsored by the fund-raising

charity Research to Prevent Blindness.

Implanted medicine pellets already have saved the sight of dozens of AIDS patients, and should be in common use in two years.

Dr. Anthony Nesburn is trying to develop a vaccine

that would be injected near the eye to prevent repeated bouts of herpes eye infections in people who already carry the viruses.

Herpes eye infections scar the cornea, the clear front part of the eye. About 500,000 Americans per year

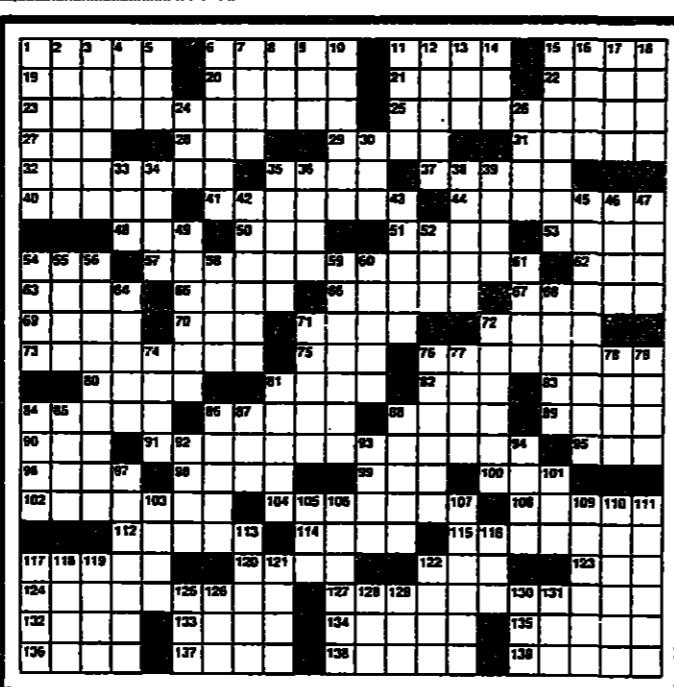
get such infections. Roughly 5,000 go blind in at least one eye, said Dr. Nesburn, a UCLA professor who directs ophthalmology research at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles.

Existing antiviral drugs haven't been proven effective.

So Dr. Nesburn tested an experimental herpes vaccine on rabbits. He found it reduced repeated herpes eye infections by half to two-thirds when combined with a drug that boosts the immune system.

Dr. Nesburn said he hopes

WEEKEND CROSSWORD



Algeria outlines path for return to democracy

By John Baggaley
Reuter

ALGIERS — After more than a year of emergency rule and bloody conflict with Islamic fundamentalists, Algeria's military-backed government has sketched out a shadowy path for a cautious return to democracy.

In a weekend address, head of state Ali Kafi held out the prospect of more liberalised political activity — paralleled by relentless security pressure to break up armed groups blamed for hundreds of killings.

Mr. Kafi promised a referendum this year on how the return to democracy would be managed.

He did not say what questions would be put but diplomats saw the poll as a crucial first stage which must attract enough votes for the result to be seen as a real consensus.

"The referendum has to attract at least a credible number of voters to provide any legitimacy for future action," a European diplomat said Sunday, hours after Mr. Kafi's address.

"At least there was a reference to a resumption of elections which there hasn't been for some time, even if the speech left a lot of questions unanswered," said a Western diplomat.

The speech followed weeks of consultations with different groups as time runs out on the collective presidency whose mandate ends on Dec. 31.

Mr. Kafi said the unelected advisory National Consultative Council would be expanded to take in political parties and other groups, who would be given "reinforced prerogatives."

"There's a flickering light now at the end of the tunnel," a Western diplomat said.

"They seem to be advancing by minute steps but increasingly bringing in the parties who initially denounced the presidency as unconstitutional," said a European envoy.

The five-man presidency was installed after President Chadli Benjedid resigned over the advance of Muslim fundamentalists in a general election. Diplomats said Mr. Chadli was forced out.

The new authorities cancelled the poll, which the fundamentalists

looked poised to win, triggering a wave of violence blamed on Muslim radicals whose party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was outlawed last March.

Well over 600 people have been killed since a state of emergency was imposed in February 1992 and the country has been without a parliament for more than a year.

Mr. Kafi promised more talks with political parties and associations on how an unspecified period of "transition" would be handled "to favour the return to the electoral process."

"This seems to be the starting point for the whole situation. And it was not hedged round by caveats on the security situation in the past," another diplomat said.

"But it is an absolute minimum (programme) and leaves many questions — how long the transition will be, what sort of institution will take over when this presidency steps down, how do you treat those who supported the FIS and the FFS (Socialist Forces Front)?"

The FIS was credited with over three million votes in the aborted election and the FFS, which has refused to join talks with the presidency, attracted some 500,000. Another five million out of the 13 million electorate abstained.

Mr. Kafi gave an upbeat assessment of the security situation, saying: "The escalation of terrorist acts... is being combated more and more efficiently by security forces."

Poverty is blamed by many for swelling fundamentalist ranks and Mr. Kafi warned that "real democracy" could only emerge from enduring economic development.

He repeated a pledge to move Algeria towards a free market economy, saying this would need imaginative policies, opening up to the outside world, restructured industry and competition.

"Kafi's speech suggests a three-year transition at least," one of the diplomats said, adding: "It's still a risky course."

Police, ANC form tentative bond in S. Africa

By Judith Matloff
Reuter

PRETORIA — A white policeman affably hands a megaphone to an ANC activist calling for the end of white minority rule, an image of new, tentative cooperation between South Africa's traditional foes.

White police wrestle to the ground a white rightwinger who shot dead two black protesters. African National Congress (ANC) township officials hand over to police thugs who killed a journalist. Police and ANC organisers huddle at rallies to stop looters and rioters.

As South Africa takes halting violent steps towards multi-racial democracy, cooperation once unthinkable is emerging between the ANC government-in-waiting and its erstwhile police enemies.

The ANC still accuses the police of shooting unarmed township protesters and senior police officials question its ability to control its followers.

Since the April 10 murder of black Communist Party leader Chris Hani, the two sides have been thrown together to save the country from violent disaster. At least 80 people, most of them blacks, have been killed in violence since Mr. Hani's death.

But police and the ANC have struck delicate, unprecedented deals to ensure potentially explosive rallies were largely orderly.

"Cooperation was good," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said last month after police and ANC marshals working together ensured mourning ceremonies for Mr. Hani that drew tens of thousands of blacks who were mainly peaceful."

"What has been played out this week is instructive — this is the embryonic stage of joint control of the security forces."

The ANC and other black anti-apartheid groups taking part in multi-party negotiations on a transition to democracy are demanding joint control over South Africa's white-led security forces along with black guerrilla groups.

The police force is 60 per cent black and the government late last year appointed its first three non-white generals.

Except for one day of urban riots and some isolated incidents, Mr. Hani's funeral and other memorial events were largely peaceful as police and ANC officials consulted to ensure white rightists did not attack protesters and township anger did not spill

out of control.

"The cooperation has been superb," said a U.N. observer in Pretoria, the seat of white power where ANC and police officials walked side by side to maintain order at a march.

At one point a white policeman lent ANC organiser Donsie Khumalo his megaphone so his supporters could hear calls for black

Israeli absence from Palestinian festival testifies to separate identities

By Najwa Najjar-Kort
Special to the Jordan Times

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The second annual Cinema Nights of Jerusalem, which ended on May 5, was a testimony of the *de facto* separation of the Palestinian and Israeli societies, an issue at the heart of the ongoing Middle East peace talks.

"This film festival reflects a new and welcomed atmosphere, one which clearly divides Palestinians and Israelis," said Daoud Kuttab

president of the Jerusalem Film Institute (JFI), a non-profit organization founded in May 1991 for the promotion of film consciousness among Palestinians and sponsor of the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem.

Unlike most cultural events held in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the past, there was a noticeable lack of Israeli presence during the festival.

"Even journalists were unconcerned and Israeli intellectuals did not show their usual interest (in the festival)," said Mr. Kuttab.

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since late March and the border restrictions were

indirect Israeli interference as these measures were responsible for low turnout rates of moviegoers in Jerusalem from the sealed off areas and from the Arab World.

Despite the effects on the festival, this Israeli security siege was considered particularly significant by Palestinians living in the occupied territories and festival sponsors.

The siege, not an unusual measure Israelis adopt, was viewed in light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's recent statements as a separation between Israelis and Palestinians.

The "borders" manned on every road leading into East Jerusalem by Israeli soldiers was further proof to Palestinians of the territorial division between the two peoples and a sign of the birth of a Palestinian state.

In response to the siege, the JFI decided to take the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem to Palestinians who could not enter Jerusalem during the festival from April 10-22. JFI members holding Jerusalem Israeli identification cards were able to travel to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to show the 33 films from ten different Arab countries between April 22 and May 5.

"In addition to breaking the security siege on our people by going to them, we also broke the cultural siege. We have been cut off from the Arab World for the past 25 years," said Mr. Kuttab.

To combat the cultural blockade, the JFI decided to dedicate this year's film festival to Arab films.

shown were long feature films. Because 35mm projectors were not available, the films were projected through video. The films were divided into three categories: Classical Arab films, new Arab releases and Palestinian films.

The classical category included Egyptian Director Yousef Shahin's masterpiece *Al Ard (The Land)* (1968) that portrays the struggle of small Egyptian farmers against landowners and Khaled Al Sadeeq's *Bas Ya Bah (Cruel Sea)* (1971), the first Kuwaiti film that tackles the tense relationships among people in a society that does not promise much to its young people. Also included was the screenplay of Palestinian Ghassan Kanafani's famous novel *Men in the Sun* (1973).

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, a renowned writer and art critic long before she became known as the articulate spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, reiterated the importance of improving cinema appreciation among Palestinians at the festival's opening speech. Dr. Ashrawi said that the Palestinian cultural movement "is a reflection that the people are alive."

Screenings were made at both the Palestinian National Theatre and the Kasaba Theatre in East Jerusalem. Most of the films

by filmmakers from Morocco, Lebanon and Tunis. These five directors were given an opportunity to express their opinions on the Gulf war and its effects on the average Arab citizen and intellectual.

Other new releases featured at the festival included Jordan's Nidal Anzour's film *An Eastern Tale* (1991), Mohammad Malas' award-winning film *The Night* (1992), Moroccan Jilali Farhat's *The Shores of the Lost Children* (1991) and Egyptian Asma Bakr's *Beggars and Noblemen* (1991).

In addition to Mr. Suleiman, only two other directors were able to attend their films fell under the Palestinian film category. Hani Abu Assad from Nazareth, now living in Holland, wrote and directed his first short film *Paper House* (1992) and Alaa Arsough of Akka, now living in the United States, wrote, directed and produced her own documentary, *Torn Living* (1993). Ironically, local filmmaker from Beit Jala (less than five miles away from Jerusalem) Hani Musleh, who wrote and directed the documentary *We Are God's Soldiers* (1993) was unable to attend the showing of

his film.

Mr. Kuttab said that the JFI had decided to invest in this cultural event despite the internal and external obstacles, especially the meager financial and human resources, "since the only way to place ourselves on the political map in this volatile, unstable atmosphere was to act and not talk."

Mr. Kuttab said that last year's first Cinema Nights of Jerusalem, which was dedicated to Palestinian films, must have been a success, judging from the increased local interest. Its success encouraged the JFI to continue holding the festival and to undertake new projects. Recently, the JFI has embarked on training Palestinians in film and video production and producing films that are shown locally and internationally.

JFI founders hope that the Cinema Nights of Jerusalem will become a permanent feature on the city's agenda, a part which will help in making Jerusalem a cultural capital for Palestinians.

Mr. Kuttab, himself a writer, has recently returned from Jerusalem and is currently working as a filmmaker in Amman.



Various scenes from the movies shown at this year's Cinema Nights of Jerusalem festival



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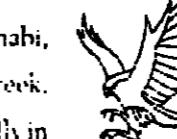
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Economy

Report: Africa poorer despite decade of economic reforms

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — African incomes shrank for the second year in a row in 1992, the African Development Bank (ADB) said Wednesday in a bleak report that offered no hope of speed relief.

Countries that for more than a decade have imposed stringent economic reforms that targeted the poorest of the world's poor now are looking for ways to relieve their plights, the bank's 1993 report said.

Confronted by economic recession, huge debts and slumping prices for their commodities, most African governments bowed to pressures from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and imposed punishing reforms in the 1980s.

But they did it grudgingly. Instead of cutting spending on bloated bureaucracies or on armies that might turn on them, governments hit at those with the least power to retaliate.

"Key social sector services, especially to the poor, often proved to be the softest targets for cuts," bank vice president

Farhat Lounes of Algeria told a news conference.

Tanzania, a country that was deeply committed to providing social services, cut expenditure on education from 17.3 per cent of the budget in 1972 to 7.2 per cent in 1985. Primary school enrollment, which had risen to nearly 100 per cent, fell to 66 per cent in 1988, the report said.

Similar erosion, that the report warned would dog long-term development, occurred across the continent.

Now, Tanzania is financing income-generating projects for vulnerable groups. Senegal has a retraining programme for workers laid off when unproductive state companies were shut down.

Madagascar abolished a subsidy on rice that devastated the urban poor but now provides free rice to the destitute.

In many countries, people revolted against the hardship. Their protests grew into demands for democracy that have ousted a few governments. They also brought prolonged unrest and instability

where military dictators refuse to surrender power, as in Zaire and Togo.

Africa's democracy movement "is a very positive force" but risks being submerged by economic difficulties, Mr. Lounes said.

Population growth of 3.1 per cent again outstripped sluggish economic gains in 1992. The real value of the continent's good and services grew by only 1.9 per cent, down from 2.6 per cent in 1991.

External debt increased by about \$9 billion to more than \$255 billion. Servicing debts cost Africans more than 32 per cent of export earnings.

The continent's share of world trade decreased, terms of trade deteriorated by 4.2 per cent and the trade balance recorded a deficit of \$12.4 billion, \$8.3 billion.

Food imports accounted for much of the rise in imports — due to an apocalyptic drought that stretched along the Indian Ocean coast from the Cape to Cairo and west through Namibia into southern Angola, the bank

said.

It also blamed Africa's "disappointing performance" on civil strife and conflicts, though one war-torn nation, Liberia, reported increased economic growth in 1992. This appeared to be because of exports of minerals, diamonds, rubber and timber from behind the lines of rebel leader Charles Taylor.

Regional integration was the only hope of success for Africa's small and fragile economies in a world increasingly being partitioned into trading blocs, the bank said.

That, too, is a long way off. Though the continent has plans for a pan-African economic community, most trade now is through smuggling. Ivory Coast, where the bank has its headquarters, is part of the 16-nation economic community of African states that was formed 18 years ago when trade between members accounted for four per cent of imports and exports. Officials

trade remains at four per cent today.

Premier says Russia should produce more, import less

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Tuesday that Russia should import less foreign technology and concentrate on producing more of its own.

RIA news agency quoted him as saying during a visit to Russia's north Caucasus region that Russian companies were capable of producing many types of goods and equipment that were now being bought abroad.

"If we don't set up a barrier to technology purchases from abroad, we will never survive," he was reported as saying. It was not immediately clear if he was referring to tariff barriers on an outright ban.

Agencies quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying Russia was not a "beggar" and should resist attempts to reduce it to a mere exporter of raw materials.

"People want to make us a country exporting raw materials but not producing or processing

goods," Interfax quoted him as saying.

"Reform won't work unless we start producing. Not even the harshest monetary and credit policy will stop inflation unless we fill the market with goods," he emphasized.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, a technocrat with many years of experience in the energy sector, has attached high priority to reviving Russia's ailing industries since he replaced the more radical Yegor Gaidar as prime minister last December.

Interfax said Mr. Chernomyrdin insisted: "Russia is a great country which has everything it needs. We need to produce more ourselves."

The agencies said the prime minister added that conversion of the old military-industrial complex meant that Russian companies could now make food-processing equipment to the best international standards.

"I'm fed up of talk about

buying processing equipment abroad," RIA quoted him as saying.

Mr. Chernomyrdin also complained that foreign credits were being offered to Russia only in a fifth last year — and creating a mechanism to stimulate output.

RIA reported.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sit back and analyse whatever arises today that is unexpected and think things over before committing your resources and yourself to any one plan that isn't entirely under your control.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19 Despite the negative suggestions of an acquaintance you would be wise to pursue your biggest plans since you have a real chance to make them a success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some very astute awareness just what to do to aid conditions at your residence even though it will cost more that you want to.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You should not allow a tense situation in the outside world to interfere with performing usual routines of importance with your colleagues.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A secret worry can preoccupy you if you allow it but instead focus your attention upon more practical matters and they will work out well.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Look into the various personal wishes that mean the most to you and steer clear of one who is trying to get you to do something you do not wish to do.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about the various private ambitions that most activate you to suggest.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

which you are tending your efforts but you need to get the standpoint of an associate who sees things in a new light.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what a generous friend can do for you and then seek out ways that you can show your appreciation in some material manner and please that person.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) The outside world is your bête noire today if you make a point to get together with a prominent person at a charming spot and state your wishes.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to December 22) You have all sorts of new ways to get things as you wish but its also imperative that you help your family with some duties to be performed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Doing what your mate wishes cheerfully can bring more happiness to both while later you can get off with a congenial companion to a fine location.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to have a good time but instead a power associate is ready and willing to enter into a serious discussion of importance to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your ideas are not all good today and you would be wise to listen closely to what those who work side-by-side with you have to suggest.

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Approvals for investment in Australia decline 17%

SYDNEY (AFP) — Official approvals for investment in Australia in fiscal 1991-92 declined 17 per cent on the previous year to 16.7 billion Australian dollars (\$23.8 billion), the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) has said.

The FIRB annual report revealed the government approved 2,981 requests in the year to June 30, 1992, compared with 2,525 approvals for projects worth 20.2 billion dollars the previous year.

It said that of the 16.7 billion dollars approved, 13 billion dollars were for direct acquisitions and 3.6 billion dollars went to development proposals.

By sector, the acquisition approvals were: Real estate 4.3 billion dollars, manufacturing 1.6 billion dollars, mining 2.1 billion dollars, non-tourism services 3.3 billion dollars, and tourism 800 million dollars.

Expected investment fell 25 per cent in manufacturing from 3.1 billion dollars in 1990-91 to 2.3 billion dollars, by 59 per cent in mining from 5.4 billion dollars to 2.2 billion dollars, and by 32 per cent in tourism from 1.9 billion dollars to 1.3 billion dollars.

But expected investment in services, excluding tourism, increased by 52 per cent from 2.3 billion dollars to 3.5 billion dollars.

Japan accounted for 2.6 billion dollars or 15.6 per cent of total expected investment, the United States 1.9 billion dollars or 11 per cent, Britain 1.8 billion dollars or 10.7 per cent, New Zealand 900 million dollars or 5.4 per cent, Singapore 700 million dollars or 4.2 per cent, and Hong Kong 600 million dollars or 3.6 per cent.

Argentina hopes to create one million new jobs by '95

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina has unveiled an economic programme designed to bring inflation down to four per cent and create one million jobs by the end of President Carlos Menem's term two years from now.

A populist convert to the free market, Mr. Menem took office in 1989 with the country gripped by hyperinflation. He is due to hand over power in July, 1995 unless he succeeds in reforming a constitution that bars him from seeking a second consecutive term.

Besides bringing inflation down to its lowest levels in nearly five decades, the Menem administration wants to add one million new jobs to a work force of 12 million people.

"One million new jobs sounds ambitious, but if, despite hyperinflation, in the first part of President Menem's term we created over 660,000 jobs, we believe this new target is within our possibilities," Mr. Cavallo said.

Argentina's inflation is now around 12 per cent, with a tendency to decrease. Unemployment stands at seven per cent.

The government will now concentrate on boosting domestic savings and cutting production costs, Mr. Cavallo said.

As Mr. Menem had announced, Argentina will scrap all import duties on capital goods, hardware and equipment used to upgrade industrial plant and machinery.

"This is unprecedented in our history," Mr. Cavallo said. "This means farmers and businessmen will be able to buy the highest quality and lowest priced technology available, lowering production costs and modernising their operations."

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A "OOOO—OOOO"

(Answers tomorrow)

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Andy Capp



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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
JD	JD	JD	JD	JD
ARAB BANK	316,100	314,000	310,350	317,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	85,410	84,190	84,150	85,150
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	394,128	2,150	2,260	2,260
THE HOUSING BANK	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	42,639	3,180	3,100	3,190
JORDAN BANK	259,100	2,520	2,320	2,450
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	4,000	4,100	4,000	4,000
BUSINESS BANK	5,723	3,270	3,170	3,270
JORDAN LIFE & FIRE INSURANCE	3,945	3,100	3,100	3,100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	78,253	3,140	3,100	3,100
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	24,390	3,650	3,650	3,830
ARABIAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	75,170	3,400	3,400	3,510
ARABIAN SEA INSURANCE	670	3,180	3,180	3,180
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	28,249	3,910	3,800	3,800
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	37,770	3,180	3,180	3,180
ARAB LIFE & FIRE INSURANCE	16,840	3,060	3,000	3,000
JORDANIA INSURANCE	89,748	3,020	3,170	3,170
JORDAN POWER & ELECTRICITY	1,945	1,900	1,850	1,900
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	18,993	6,100	6,000	5,900
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	26,533	6,450	6,450	6,420
JORDAN TOURISM & SPACOMPLEXES	1,300	4,500	4,400	4,400
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	24,390	1,790	1,780	1,780
JORDAN GOLD REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	147,580	9,940	9,970	9,960
JORDAN GOLD REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,270	3,180	3,180	3,180
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	9,390	1,810	1,810	1,800
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL TRADING & MAINTENANCE	1,138	1,130	1,130	1,130
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL TRADING & MAINTENANCE	1,138	1,130	1,130	1,130
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	6,143	27,790	27,790	27,000
ATTACHEE CO. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1,945	1,900	1,850	1,900
JORDAN CLOTHING & SPORTS	26,533	6,450	6,450	6,420
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	302,611	4,400	4,400	4,380
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9,304	10,580	10,500	10,560
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,270	3,180	3,180	3,180
MOLEN INDUSTRIES	22,782	3,970	3,900	3,900
THE IRON & STEEL & AGRICULTURAL	126,857	7,150	7,150	7,210
ARAB PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	127,069	6,750	6,800	6,780
JORDAN DALY	20,170	7,000	7,000	7,020
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	5,673	3,650	3,580	3,650
THE PUBLIC MINING	1,395	3,180	3,180	3,180
INTERADVERTICETTE CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	14,283	9,960	9,960	9,940
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	75,474	4,210	4,200	4,200
JORDAN ROCKWOOD INDUSTRIES	21,638	2,650	2,650	2,620
JORDAN STARCH INDUSTRIES	313,040	9,780	9,750	9,780
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	11,070	1,260	1,260	1,270
JORDAN GOLD INDUSTRIES	14,400	6,100	6,100	6,100
JORDAN GOLD INDUSTRIES / JINCO	590,658	12,500	12,400	12,400
JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	127,142	2,250	2,250	4,450
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	80,501	2,030	2,040	2,020
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	250,030	5,370	5,380	5,380
UNIVERSAL FIBER INDUSTRIES				
GRAND TOTAL	6,264,224			

Turkmenistan hires Haig to attract U.S. businesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Turkmenistan, one of the least known and most remote of the former Soviet republics, has hired former secretary of state Alexander Haig to help it attract U.S. business.

Mr. Haig and Virginia businessman Michael Ansari are partners in a venture that will net them a percentage of deals struck by U.S. firms there. The Central Asian nation is rich in natural gas and oil and was a major exporter of cotton when it was part of the Soviet Union.

Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov is eager to attract Western investment and is ready to offer capital incentives such as tax breaks and favourable arrangements for repatriation of profits.

But Mr. Niyazov is firmly opposed to political reform in the country of 3.5 million which has long borders with Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The former head of the republic's Communist Party permits no political opposition or free press.

Mr. Haig described his relationship with the Turkmen gov-

ernment as "a joint venture, a partnership... we signed a number of contracts with the government in a number of areas that will be fairly broad and fairly substantial."

Mr. Ansari said that U.S. firms who want to do business in Turkmenistan "will be doing the business through us and with us.... The government has created an entity that requires our participation with their participation. So whoever goes to the government will automatically be talking to us."

Asked if that meant he and Mr. Haig were the exclusive agents for Turkmenistan, Mr. Ansari replied, "I don't know whether I want to use agent... probably more like a conduit."

Mr. Haig and Mr. Ansari sponsored a visit to the United States by Mr. Niyazov in March during which the Turkmen president signed a trade agreement. He also met with administration officials and members of Congress and received a decidedly mixed reception.

Senator Dennis DeConcini,



Alexander Haig

who questioned the Turkmen leader about human rights during the visit, said he was sceptical about Mr. Niyazov's commitment to democracy and free market reform.

"What he's committed to is probably making an agreement with some big oil company and keeping the population repressed. The government is letting the government decide what's good," Mr. DeConcini said.

Mr. Haig paints a quite different picture.

"I would characterise him as a fellow who has been part of the old regime, but who is the incumbent through an electoral process. He's an elected president," said Mr. Haig who was secretary of state under president Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Niyazov was elected president in 1990, receiving 99.5 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Haig conceded Mr. Niyazov had no opponent, but added that his vote represented "a fairly substantial endorsement. I think the important fact is this fellow is moving into a market economy. He has firmly committed himself to that and is introducing reforms designed to bring that about."

Hong Kong stocks punch through 7,000 mark

HONG KONG (AFP) — Optimistic investors, sensing a thaw in Sino-British relations, scrambled for blue chips on the Hong Kong stock exchange Wednesday, sending the Hang Seng Index over the 7,000 mark for the first time in history.

The sources said tanks were being built by a Swedish firm, ABV Rock Group. Sited close to major military facilities, they will hold oil products to power fighter jets, battle tanks and other military machinery and will be linked by pipeline.

The project has been on the drawing board for many years and the contract was awarded to the Swedish group in the late 1980s but was suspended when the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990.

Saudi Arabi interests were reported to have bought the ABV Rock Group for about \$30 million in 1988 when it was put in charge of the project on behalf of the defence ministry. But this could not be confirmed in either Saudi Arabia or Sweden.

The sources said the Gulf crisis and subsequent war with Iraq had reinforced the need for a strategic military reserve.

Over 700,000 mainly U.S. troops, more than 3,000 tanks and armoured carriers and 3,500 warplanes and helicopters were based in Saudi Arabia and had to be supplied and maintained.

The network was originally conceived for commercial purposes, to allow the kingdom to store oil produced at times of glut and sell it when there were world shortages.

But the storage tanks, now go along," said another.

S. Arabia revives underground oil storage plan

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has planned to be built below ground and heavily defended, became strictly military and shrouded in secrecy. Oil officials deny any knowledge of that plan.

Details are sketchy apart from the fact that the Swedish company has started building the tanks.

The sources said the project could cost \$4 to \$6 billion, depending on the size and number of sites to store up to 30 million barrels of products.

"If they are going for the whole 30 million barrels then it could cost \$6 billion," said one source. He said Riyadh had already set aside income from the sale of 200,000 barrels of its eight million barrel daily production to finance the project, providing more than \$3 million per day.

"This commitment is open-ended and will last for the duration of the project," he said.

The sources said the plan did not command universal acceptance among senior Saudis, with critics arguing that the U.S.-led military alliance which defeated Iraq in 1991 used only a third of 30 million barrels earmarked for the campaign.

"A new scenario involving thousands of warplanes and 300,000 troops on Saudi soil again is not foreseen and opponents argue a smaller storage capacity would be more reasonable," one source said.

"They will build some storage facilities and assess the need for the total 30 million barrels as they go along," said another.

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York CP 5pm Date 11/5/1993
Sterling Pound	1,4410
Deutsche Mark	1,0655
Swiss Franc	1,4560
French Franc	5,4235
Japanese Yen	111,40
European Currency Unit	1,2155
USD Per STG	
** European Opening @ 1200 a.m. GMT	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 12/5/1993
Currency	1 MTU	3 MTU
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.06
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	7.56	7.57
Swiss Franc	5.00	4.94
French Franc	7.87	7.56
Japanese Yen	5.21	5.21
European Currency Unit	8.12	7.87
AMOUNT		
AMOUNT		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 12/5/1993

Gold	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
555.70	6.75	6.75	Silver	4.22	.045

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 12/5/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer

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Queen forgets specs, gives job to husband

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II gave one of the briefest addresses of her reign, after falling victim to a very common problem. Arriving at the Commonwealth Institute for its centenary celebration, the 67-year-old monarch was seen running through her black patent leather purse, then handing her text to her husband, Prince Philip. "I am going to ask my husband to read my speech for me," she told the crowd, and sat down. "I am afraid the queen forgot to bring her glasses," Prince Philip explained. An old hand at speech-giving himself, he delivered the seven-page address with hardly a hesitation. The royal couple were marking the anniversary of the institute, which was opened by Queen Victoria as the Imperial Institute 100 years ago.

Woman donates prime property to home town

TOKYO (R) — An 86-year-old Japanese woman has donated a slice of the world's most expensive real estate to her home town, a spokeswoman for the town office said. The property, worth about 900 million yen (\$8.1 million), comprises a 50-square-metre (540-square-foot) patch of land and the two-storey wooden building on it. It is located in Ginza, the central Tokyo district that contains many of Japan's most expensive department stores and office buildings. Tsurue Inoue said she hoped her home town of Shiojiri, in the mountains of Nagano prefecture, would use the property for welfare. She runs an elite bar on the site, which has said she would continue to do until her death.

Garth Brooks gets top country award

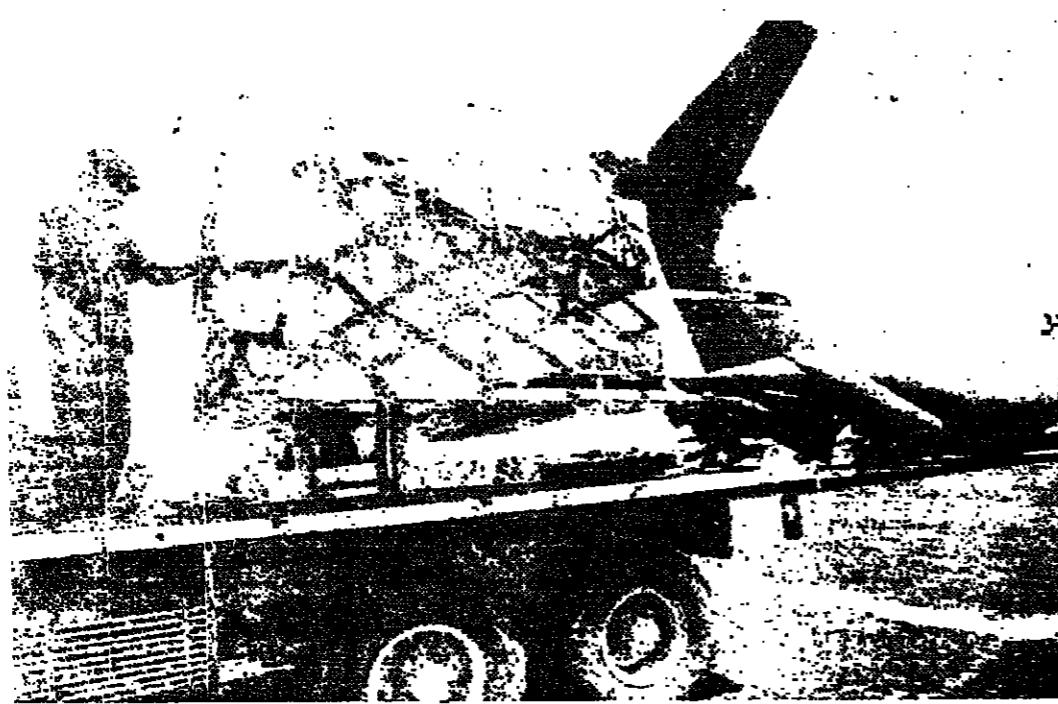
UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AP) — Singer Garth Brooks won his third straight entertainer of the year award, and the duo Brooks and Dunn earned three trophies at the Academy of Country Music Awards. "I'd really like to thank you all out there. God bless you," Garth Brooks said in accepting his ninth Academy Trophy in three years. Brooks and Dunn won Best Album for *Brand New Man*, top single record for their honky-tonk dance tune *Boot Scootin' Boogie* and Best Vocal Duet. Crooner Vince Gill won two awards, his first since being named Top New Male Vocalist in 1985. He was named Top Male Vocalist and won the Top Song Award for *I Still Believe in You*. Mary-Chapin Carpenter, led by the success of her ribald smash *I Feel Lucky*, won the female vocalist trophy. Tracy Lawrence was named Best New Male Vocalist for his album and hit single, *Alibi*. Michelle Wright, best known for her hit *Take It Like A Man*, was named Top New Female Vocalist. The hard-driving band Diamond Rio beat out Alabama to win their second consecutive Top Group Award.

Costner's mane man criticised

GLENDALE, California (AP) — Kevin Costner's mane man is facing for more criticism after giving the close-cropped actor's hair an even shorter cut for the Christmas season movie *A Perfect World*. Frank Ramos has been Costner's personal hairdresser for five years. But since the release of Costner's movie *The Bodyguard*, Ramos has been ridiculed for the star's coiffure. "It's funny how in *Aliens* a woman can shave her head bald and the critics don't mention it, but Kevin gets a short haircut and they go after him," Ramos said. In his review of *The Bodyguard* for the Los Angeles Times last November, Peter Rainer said the moral of the movie should be: "Never get a really bad haircut."

Diana meets stepmother's fiance

LONDON (AP) — The Princess of Wales met her stepmother's new fiance in a chance encounter at a hotel lobby. Princess Diana, estranged wife of Prince Charles, was at Clarendon's Hotel for a private luncheon on behalf of the National AIDS Trust. Raine Spencer, a widow since Princess Diana's father, Earl Spencer, died last year, was lunching separately with French Count Jean-Francois De Chambon, the day after their marriage plans were announced. As the newly engaged couple left the hotel, Raine told reporters they had met Princess Diana inside and talked. "The princess sent us some gorgeous flowers last night, with a message. It was very nice of her," the Countess Spencer said. Despite widely published reports that Princess Diana and her brother and sisters dislike their stepmother, Raine said, "I am on very good terms with my stepchildren." She said she hoped they would attend her July wedding.



Airport workers load pallets carrying U.S. donated shipments, flown in by U.S. Air Force jets, for the U.N. troops in Cambodia (AFP photo)

U.N. beefs up Cambodia protection

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The United Nations beefed up its security measures Wednesday ahead of the violence expected to accompany elections 11 days away, flying in thousands of U.S.-donated flak jackets, helmets and emergency flares for U.N. personnel under fire in the Cambodian countryside.

"All I can say is, it's better to be safe than sorry," said U.S. envoy Charles Twining who was on hand as a C-141 transport plane landed at Pocheontong Airport, delivering the first load of 6,500 flak jackets, 10,000 helmets, flares and first aid supplies.

"I think it's important for all of us in the world to do what we can to make sure this election is a success," he said.

The equipment will be distributed to U.N. personnel, including electoral workers, stationed in dangerous, remote areas of Cambodia where they risk becoming casualties in what appears to have become a Khmer Rouge campaign to disrupt the elections.

Another U.N. civilian policeman, this time from India, was injured Tuesday when two unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle threw hand grenades at his car driving on Route 69 north of Sisophon, near the Thai border in northwest Cambodia, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. The grenade exploded a few

metres away from the car, damaging it and lightly injuring the Indian inside, Mr. Falt said.

The situation in the rest of the country overnight was relatively quiet, he said, following fighting in three provinces over the weekend that left one Pakistani peacekeeper injured.

At least 10 deaths of U.N. personnel so far are attributed to the Khmer Rouge. Another 62 Cambodian civilians were killed and 137 injured at the hands of the Khmer Rouge in April alone, according to UNTAC figures.

The flak jackets and helmets will be distributed in what the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) called the "most security sensitive areas" of the country. Their most likely destinations will be the troubled provinces of Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey in the northwest, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom in central and Kompong Kompong Speu in the south.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Wednesday if the Phnom Penh government wins elections later this month, it will resume its fight against the Khmer Rouge to end the partition of Cambodia.

"We are prepared for combat because the partition of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge leaves us no other choice," the Phnom Penh government foreign minister said.

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The grenade exploded a few

British home secretary dismisses royal bugging claim as 'nonsense'

LONDON (AFP) — Claims that British intelligence bugged an argument between the Prince and Princess of Wales over custody of their children were dismissed as "nonsense" Wednesday by Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke.

The tabloid newspaper The Sun claimed the agency MI5 taped the conversation in the privacy of the royal couple's country home Highgrove last November, a month before their legal separation.

The Sun's transcript of the alleged conversation reveals nothing extraordinary, a banality of jibes and sarcasm between an unhappy couple in the throes of breaking up.

More significant was the renewed charge that government intelligence services were in the business of bugging the royal family's private telephones and now, allegedly, their private living quarters.

MI5 had previously been implicated in the taping of intimate telephone conversations between the prince and princess and their respective friends. But the agency always denied the charges and no hard proof was ever presented.

"There is not a shred of evidence to show it is MI5," Mr. Clarke said. "It is all nonsense. If it were to be true I would be absolutely astonished..."

But it was Prime Minister John Major, as then head of Britain's security services, who was expected to face a barrage of questions in the House of Commons over the new charges.

There were already demands for a top-level public inquiry.

Labour MPs, terming the claim an "outrage," were stressing it "immeasurably" strengthens the case for putting the secret services under the control and surveillance of a House of Commons committee.

The Sun claimed the latest tape was hidden in an MI5 file labelled DI — Discarded Information — and may have been brought to light by a disgruntled secret service employee.

The paper's transcript portrays Prince Charles and Princess Diana in a heated discussion over the future of Princes William, 10, and Harry, eight, and where they would spend Christmas.

At one stage in the conversation, Princess Diana storms at

Prince Charles: "Oh, don't be so bloody childish!" Her husband retorts: "Oh God."

"Say something I want to hear," she demands.

"I'm leaving," he replies.

Diana: "For once, stop being so self-centred. You still think of me as the person you married."

Charles: "I stopped thinking like that years ago."

Diana: "Yes, I suppose that would be a good indication of why we drifted apart, my dear."

Meanwhile, outrage mounted among opposition MPs asking why MI5 would be bugging the royal family, and who else was under the microphone.

"These people have been bugging and bugging their way around for far too long without any check or scrutiny," said Labour MP Robert Cryer. "It is time their intrusive actions were brought to an end."

"The bugging of the Prince and Princess of Wales is not a question of a threat to national security or a question of the future of the monarchy," said shadow minister Mo Mowlam. "If royalty and politicians are being bugged... who else?"

Locked doors condemned Bangkok fire victims to death

BANGKOK (AP) — Survivors of Bangkok's fire disaster in which more than 200 perished said Wednesday they were held up by locked doors and security guards as they tried to flee.

And Assistant Police Chief Chaierng Rojanapatong charged there were no designated fire exit and no fire alarms or fire escapes at the doll factory.

He said there was a company policy that no worker was allowed to leave the premises without first submitting to a body search by guards.

Mr. Chaierng told reporters that managers and foremen at the plant apparently misread the situation and prevented hundreds of frantic workers from fleeing the burning building during the first critical minutes after the fire was reported.

"The security guards had a standing order not to let workers leave the factory without a body search for fear that they would steal materials and other valuables," Mr. Chaierng said.

He said the workers had never had a fire drill.

Mr. Chaierng earlier said his initial investigation showed the factory buildings were "obviously substandard."

One company employee, Yodkhan Kongsub, 20, said there

"has never been any fire drill since I joined the company" two years ago. "They only taught some of us how to use a fire extinguisher."

Other employees said doors to the string of bridges linking the four buildings in the complex were routinely kept locked, and security guards had prevented them from using the bridges to escape the fire.

Survivors told reporters flames engulfed the factory quickly, the lights soon went out leaving the terrified employees in darkness, and the main building crumbled like "a house of cards" about 10 minutes after the fire began.

A spokeswoman for the Interior Ministry's Labour Protection and Welfare Department said Tuesday that the factory did not have a satisfactory emergency escape system.

"It was completely insufficient for a factory employing thousands," she said. "And much the same situation prevails in thousands of other factories in Thailand."

Some 4,000 employees, most of them women, were on the premises at the time, and officials said that the death toll could rise dramatically as workers dig deeper into the rubble.

There was confusion over the death toll, which Interior Ministry officials said remained at 240 and a coordination centre set up at the scene said was 209. Officials earlier said at least 547 people were also injured in the inferno, and many remained in serious condition.

The last exercise was held late on April 1, Mr. Pichet said.

Sprinklers were installed in every building, he added, but acknowledged there were no designated fire exits.

Yeltsin convenes special assembly on constitution

MOSCOW (AFP)

— President

Boris

Yeltsin

, defying

conservative

foes, Wednesday ordered the

convening

of a special

assembly

in its

new

basic

law

for post-Soviet

Russia

and to decide how it will be

enacted.

In a decree released by the

Kremlin

, Mr.

Yeltsin

accused

the

hardline

parliament

of

blocking

efforts

to

consult

the

Russian

people

by

referendum

on

a new

basic

law

for

post-Soviet

Russia

and

to

decide

how

it

will

be

enacted.

The Russian leader said his decision to convene the assembly was justified given the results of the April 25 referendum "which confirmed the legitimacy of the president of Russia and confidence in his socio-economic policy."

Despite the criticism from his adversaries, Mr. Yeltsin nonetheless appeared to have the upper hand in his struggle with the legislature and the decree also announced the creation of a new presidential working group on the constitution.

Mr. Yeltsin unveiled his draft

constitution, built around a strong presidency, on April 29 when he told regional officials gathered at the Kremlin to take it back to their constituencies for study and to return with suggested changes.

Wednesday's decree said the work of the Constituent Assembly would be carried out "taking into account" modifications recommended by regional governments, organs of state power, political parties and movements, trade unions and Russian citizens.

The parliament meanwhile was

Sports

Becker, Courier advance

ROME (AFP) — Fancy footwork couldn't save world No. 7 Ivan Lendl from one of his worst defeats on clay at the Italian Open Tuesday.

Lendl, the fifth seed succumbed 6-2, 6-1 to Uruguayan clay-court specialist Marcelo Filippi in the first round and left the court to the sound of whistles from the disappointed fans.

But Boris Becker threw his weight around well enough to emerge with a victory on the fast new surface.

For years, players have complained that the clay on the Foro Italico courts is just too slow compared to Roland Garros, site of the French Open.

This year, the organisers have speeded up the surface considerably with new clay, adding lighter balls to the tournament for a good measure.

"I never get used to any court but after 15 years of tennis you learn to live with it," said Lendl, who only a fortnight ago sparked talk of a renaissance with his win in Munich the week after he made the final in Nice.

"It was very slippery and I could not keep my feet. Every



Uruguay's Marcelo Filippi returns a shot to opponent Ivan Lendl whom he beat 6-2, 6-1 at the Italian Open (AFP photo)

time I would run one direction I would slide for several metres and could not get back in time for the next shot," he complained.

Filippi's precise strokes made a mockery of Lendl's comeback plans as the 25-year-old South American, ranked 67th in the world, broke his serve almost at will.

Becker, who has never done well on clay, got along fine on the surface in his 6-4, 6-3 victory over Andrei Chernakov of Russia.

"I'm heavier than Ivan so I don't slide as quickly as him," he

joked. "It was not too slippery for me."

Jim Courier, still trying to adjust to life as world number two under Pete Sampras, was satisfied after ousting qualifier Horacio de La Pena of Argentina 6-2, 6-1.

Graf blasts Labat off court: Steffi Graf blasts Labat off court: Steffi

6-2 and reach the third round of the German Open Tuesday.

"Was that a match? she asked afterwards. "It went so quickly. Whatever I tried was so easy and

she made a lot of mistakes."

The Argentinian left-hander, ranked 45th in the world, barely raised a challenge. Her normally strong forehand was not in evidence and she often put little weight behind the ball.

Ninth seed Kimiko Date to the big serving of Brenda Schultz, losing 6-4, 6-2.

Natalia Zvereva, seeded 12, was beaten by American Ann Grossman. The Belarusian led 5-2 but then lost the next 11 games in a remarkable collapse to lose 7-5, 6-0.

Sheep to be evicted from Wembley of the Middle East

BEIRUT (AFP) — Having hosted World Cup soccer, Lebanese leaders now plan the eviction of 1,000 sheep and a refugee shanty from what was once the Wembley of the Middle East.

To prepare for the Pan-Arab Games that Lebanon will stage in 1996, the government has committed itself to renovating the Cite Sportive complex from its desolate state.

The \$80 million reconstruction will rid the stadium of many of its war ghosts. It will also be a severe test of the organisational ability of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

The premier put his weight behind the project while welcoming India, Hong Kong and South Korea to the World Cup qualifying tournament, Beirut's first post-war international sports event.

Built for the 1957 Pan-Arab Games, the 65,000 capacity Cite Sportive was the biggest and grandest stadium in the Middle East. Lebanese were proud to sit there just to look at the region's first electronic scoreboard and clock.

But the Cite Sportive was an early victim of conflict. The last Lebanese championship games were played there the day war broke out on April 13, 1975.

Set in the Muslim suburb of Bir Hassam, the stadium became an

arms depot for Palestinian forces based in the adjoining Sabra camp. It was bombarded for two days by Israeli planes before their 1982 invasion.

The barrage was so fierce the concrete upper terraces were left hanging precariously by their metal supports. They still do.

Already used as a prison during a 1961 coup d'état, the Israelis also used it to keep Palestinian prisoners.

For almost 20 years, Lebanese soccer went underground. Gatherings of the national squad were organisational nightmares. Players from the Christian sector had to take a boat to Nicosia and another back to the Muslim side where they used assumed identities.

All internationals were held abroad. Now the Cite Sportive pitch is home to more than 2,500 Lebanese who lost their homes in the war, Palestinian, Kurd and other refugees, and their goats. The only football played is by children outside their makeshift huts.

In the car park, Berkhetan Assaf and his family graze their huge flock of sheep. "It's the best ground we have ever been on," he said.

The basketball arena, once a regular fixture for the touring Harlem Globetrotters, has been turned into the Beirut meat market. Another adjoining gymnasium is for flowers and vegetables.

Lebanon's sporting leaders had been waiting years for Hariri's announcement, when opening the Asian qualifying tournament for the World Cup, that "work will start soon" on the new Cite Sportive.

Hariri, a billionaire constructor, has made his name as a prime minister determined to get Lebanon moving again.

The wheels are already in motion for the Cite Sportive. Rafiq Alameh, secretary general of the Lebanese Soccer Federation, said work will start this summer. "When Hariri says something will be done you can trust him," said the soccer chief.

Assaf said he has been told his sheep will have to move by the end of June. The refugees fear they will just be forced out with little warning.

Alameh hopes most of the money will come from the Arab countries who will come to the Pan-Arab Games in three years. The Arab sports ministers committee is studying how the stadium and other facilities will be financed.

English Premier League Final Standings

LONDON (AFP) — Final English Premier League table after Tuesday's games in which Tottenham beat Arsenal 3-1 and Queen's Park Rangers beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Manchester United	42	24	12	6	67	31	84
Aston Villa	42	21	11	10	56	40	74
Norwich	42	21	9	12	61	65	72
Blackburn	42	20	11	11	68	46	71
Queen's Park Rangers	42	17	12	13	63	55	63
Liverpool	42	16	11	15	62	55	59
Sheffield Wednesday	42	15	14	13	55	51	59
Tottenham	42	16	11	15	60	66	59
Manchester City	42	15	12	15	56	51	57
Arsenal	42	15	11	16	40	38	56
Chelsea	42	14	14	14	51	54	54
Wimbledon	42	14	12	16	56	55	54
Everton	42	15	8	19	53	53	53
Sheffield United	42	14	16	16	54	53	52
Coventry	42	13	13	16	52	57	52
Ipswich	42	12	16	14	50	55	52
Leeds	42	12	15	15	57	62	51
Southampton	42	12	11	18	54	61	50
Oldham	42	13	10	19	63	74	49
Crystal Palace*	42	13	16	15	48	62	49
Middlesbrough*	42	11	11	20	54	61	44
Nottingham Forest*	11	10	22	41	75	46	40

*Relegated

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH
Entertainment Services Inc

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4A 108752 ♠AKJ3 97 ♦465

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 * Pass 1 NT Pass

3 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

46 ♠AK6 ♠AQ8 ♠AQ9842

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

3 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4652 ♠AJS5 ♠AKJ83 ♦72

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 * Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

4AQ7652 ♠Q102 983 ♦952

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4QJ108 ♠3 ♠A1076 ♦K986

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4QJ108 ♠3 ♠A1076 ♦K986

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Bulls, Suns score wins

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan filled the basket and all the "loopholes" Tuesday, showing once again why he is the undisputed leader of the two-time defending champion Chicago Bulls and the best player in the NBA.

Jordan scored 16 of his 43 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Bulls to a 91-84 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in the opener of their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"As a leader you have to step in and cover the loopholes," Jordan said.

In the night's other game, Kevin Johnson scored 25 points and Richard Dumas added 22 as the Phoenix Suns held off the San Antonio Spurs 98-89 in game one of their best-of-seven Western Conference semifinals.

Meanwhile the Seattle SuperSonics drew first blood in their best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal with a 99-90 game one victory over the Houston Rockets.

Jordan, whose playoff average against the Cavaliers is nearly 39 points per game, kept the Bulls in the game with 19 first-half points, then took over in the fourth quarter.

He opened the period with a jumper and layup to give Chicago a 68-63 lead. Stacey King's three-point play gave the Bulls a 71-66 lead with 9:39 remaining.

Jordan fed Scottie Pippen for a dunk, then scored Chicago's next six points as the Bulls widened the lead to 79-70 with 5:52 to go.

Jordan added four free throws and Scott Williams scored four points as the Cavaliers got no closer than five points the rest of the way.

Jordan was 16-for-30 from the field and made all 11 of his free throws.

Jordan said he was sparked by Gerald Wilkins' claim to be the best defender against him in the league.

Gerald is a great defensive player. He's a competitor," Jordan said. "I respect that."

He added: "But it's a challenge for me, also."

Scottie Pippen, who along with Jordan was named to the NBA all-defensive team earlier in the day, scored just nine points for the Bulls.

Another Chicago "loophole" Jordan had to fill was the loss of starter Horace Grant, who twisted his ankle and played only 19 minutes, scoring six points but grabbing seven rebounds.

In Phoenix, every time it seemed the Suns were pulling away for good, the Spurs came back.

The Suns led by as many as 18 points midway through the third quarter at 62-44 but the Spurs rallied to close within nine at the end of the period, 75-66.

Phoenix went on a 6-0 run to

Karadzic sees Serb 'no' on peace plan

PALE, Bosnia (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Wednesday predicted his people would vote "no" this weekend in a referendum on an international peace plan for Bosnia.

Mr. Karadzic confirmed he and members of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb assembly would not be attending a meeting of Yugoslav, Serbian and Montenegrin legislators due to be held on Friday in Belgrade.

The Belgrade meeting is intended to preempt the referendum on the plan, drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

Mr. Karadzic said he expected the result of the referendum would be known next Wednesday.

Only after that could the Bosnian Serb assembly decide whether to attend a pan-Serbian parliamentary meeting proposed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Explaining why Bosnian Serbs would reject the Vance-Owen plan, Mr. Karadzic told reporters:

"The people living here have established their own state and they don't expect half of them to live under Muslim or Croat domination and another half to live in a kind of Nagorno-Karabakh. We want to be linked, that is how we feel our safety."

Nagorno-Karabakh is an Armenian-populated enclave in Azerbaijan, and has seen some of the fiercest ethnic-based fighting in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Karadzic said the Bosnian Serbs had already been accused of delay tactics on the Vance-Owen plan and could not delay the referendum any longer.

"The people have to decide, the people who have paid a high price in this fight for freedom," he said.

Mr. Milosevic, who has put much pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to join the Bosnian Muslim and Croats in signing the peace plan, said the decision was too important to be left to the Bosnian Serbs alone.

"Mr. Milosevic never influenced the Serbian people here. That is an illusion of the West," Mr. Karadzic said.

Heavy street fighting wracked the southwestern city of Mostar Wednesday despite attempts by a U.N. commander to broker a new cease-fire between Bosnian Croats and Muslim-led army troops.

Much of the eastern, Muslim-held section of the city was in flames as Croat forces battled to

break a Muslim foothold on the west side of the Neretva River, which Bosnian Croats want as their eastern-most boundary.

Vesko Veger, a spokesman for the Croat forces, said five soldiers were killed and about 50 wounded since Tuesday afternoon. A colleague said dozens of Muslim wounded were hospitalised on the Croat side.

In eastern Bosnia, Canadian peacekeepers came under fire in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica Tuesday, said U.N. spokesman Barry Frewer in Sarajevo. A Canadian corporal was wounded.

Srebrenica was declared a demilitarised zone last month but "we are seeing continued uneasiness in the area," Mr. Frewer said.

In nearby Zepa, civilians began returning from the hills where they had fled a Serb assault last week, after Ukrainian peacekeepers arrived to begin demilitarising the area.

The U.N. was to begin evacuating about 200 wounded from Zepa, one of six "safe areas" declared by the U.N. Security Council last week.

At U.N. headquarters, Bosnia's Muslim-led government asked the United Nations to withdraw 9,000 peacekeepers and aid workers in order to clear the way for lifting the U.N. arms embargo. The Security Council planned to discuss Bosnia later Wednesday, but is unlikely to go along with the request.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Wednesday the United States cannot ignore the bloody Yugoslav civil war for fear of getting caught in another Vietnam. He predicted new allied steps in the coming days will "make peace more likely."

Although Mr. Clinton said no final decision has been made, it appears increasingly likely the steps will include sending a small contingent of American troops to join United Nations forces in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, a symbolic deployment designed to stop the fighting from spreading.

"It is in the United States' national interest to keep this conflict from spilling over into a lot of other countries, which could drag the United States into something with NATO that we don't want," Mr. Clinton said in a moving radio interview.

Mr. Clinton has been frustrated by the refusal of European allies to endorse his calls for lifting the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims and possible air strikes against Bosnian Serb targets.

Jordan ponders path to future

(Continued from page 1)

Stagnation on either level could only have a negative, maybe even detrimental, effect on Jordan's budding democracy and, ultimately, stability. The next parliamentary elections, scheduled for around November this year, could strengthen the hands of those who oppose the peace process and the IMF-World Bank programme, mainly the hardline Islamists.

Jordan could find itself in a bind if either the anti-peace groups attain a majority in the next parliament or the widely acclaimed policy of peaceful coexistence of the "fundamentalist threat" eventually fails the test.

The regime is not saying much about how it intends to play its cards in a clean democratic game and at the same time ensure security and continuity of moderate policies in the regional and international contexts.

Since the regime cannot depend on achieving breakthroughs in the unpredictable peace process, which would in turn strengthen the hand of the centrist candidates in the elections, Jordan has to look inward for panacea.

The Kingdom currently operates under an elections law that could give hardliners, on both the left and right, the

edge they need to win a majority in the next parliament. The regime has the constitutional power to change the law into a one-man-one-vote system that would almost certainly curb the chances of the hardliners, especially the ultra conservative right. But whether it would do so and risk in the process drawing accusations of being "undemocratic" is a question that will not be answered for several weeks.

The King has just asked the Prime Minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, to retain his present Cabinet, which is not likely to produce any electoral change, until the end of May, when a final decision on the issue has to be made. As Sharif Zeid's government was largely

expected to resign soon after the celebrations to mark the King's 40th anniversary on the throne on May 2 were ended, however, the move was seen as the beginning of the last phase in the wait-and-see policy that Jordan has followed over the last few months.

Needless to say, this phase is going to be crucial for the ultimate decision that has to be taken on the need or the lack of it thereof for electoral reform. The choices are many, but there is only one that will have to be made in the end. On this choice will depend much of what happens in Jordan in the future.

Washington talks struggle ahead

(Continued from page 1)

An international meeting in Oslo on Middle East refugees heard a report Wednesday urging Israel to pay more attention to the reunification of Palestinian families forced to live apart, delegates said.

The Palestinian issue dominated business on the second day of the closed-session talks.

The report covering the plight of families in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the occupied territories "found that Israel should pay more attention to the reunification of families," Mykola Cholombyko, head of the Ukrainian de-

legation, told Reuters.

Delegates said the refugee talks, taking place in Oslo at the invitation of the Norwegian government and due to end on Thursday, had so far managed to avert the procedural wrangles which hampered an earlier round in Ottawa last November.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, opening the talks on Tuesday, said: "Families have been separated and violated by the conflict in the Middle East. You must find ways of reuniting them or reconnecting the human bonds," he said.

Under the current law, voters have as many votes as the number of deputies in the

legislature, told Reuters.

Some proposals focus on dividing the country into 80 voting districts with equal allocations of seats to each area through increasing the number of the House members to allow for the representation of under-represented sectors of society.

Along with such proposals, critics of the law are demanding the introduction of one-man-one-vote system to ensure that voters have the same voting power in all districts of the Kingdom.

Under the current law, voters have as many votes as the number of deputies in the



Mounted tribesmen escort His Majesty upon his arrival in New Shuneh Wednesday (photo by Yousef Al 'Ali)

New Shuneh extends rousing welcome to King Hussein

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

NEW SHUNEH, the Jordan Valley — Wednesday was a day of festivity and celebrations for the residents of this small town on the main road from Amman to the bridge across the River Jordan as His Majesty King Hussein was their guest of honour for lunch.

It was also an occasion for the bedouin tribes of the Jordan Valley to extend a rousing reaffirmation of their loyalty to the Hashemite leadership and pledge to continue their contribution to nation-building.

The jubilation and happiness of the people of New Shuneh to receive the King appeared to have been best summarised by an elderly tribesman who described a slight drizzle during a welcoming ceremony for the Monarch as "the tears of joy of our skies to have His Majesty among us."

At least 3,000 people, the bulk of them from the dominant Adwan tribe in North Shuneh, gathered under makeshift tents in the farmyards of Sami Affash Al Adwan, the mayor of New Shuneh and leader of the Adwans, one of the largest tribes in Jordan.

As the invited guests waited

inside, listening to national music and songs in praise of King Hussein, an equal number crowded outside to have a glimpse of the King.

Sixteen Arab stallions carrying tribesmen dressed in their typical robes and singing songs offered a traditional escort to the Monarch riding on the roof of his car to the ceremony ground from a purpose-built helipad a few hundred metres away where he had landed to the cheers of the youth of the Adwan tribe.

The speeches also included expressions of deep gratitude to the King and the government for their help to the farmers in times of crisis and appeals for continued assistance.

The King, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Cabinet and Par-

liament members, Royal Court officials, heads and senior officers of the armed forces and security departments, and the guests were treated to lunch by Mr. Adwan, a brother of Mohammad Al Adwan, chief of Royal Protocol.

In an emotional speech, the King later told the crowd: "As long as live I will not forget this occasion of meeting you — members of our one family — and the love and affection you have for me..."

"I pray to God to help us protect this land which our grandfathers and fathers protected and to keep our heads raised high, unbowing to none but God," he said.

"May God safeguard our relationship and help us continue on our path towards serving the interests of the nation," said the King.

"Let us perform our duties so that the next generations will say that we had done our best," he said. "We are all citizens and soldiers of the nation..."

Addressing the appeals of the residents of the Jordan Valley, the King promised to "do the best I can to fulfil your demands and resolve your problems" and called on them "to shoulder their responsibilities and perform their duties."

U.N. mission reports Israel's abuse of rights

GENEVA (R) — A U.N. team has said that Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories are still being killed and tortured since a more moderate Labour government took over from the right-wing nationalist Likud administration.

A U.N. investigative committee urged Israel to take concrete steps to improve the human rights situation in the occupied territories as a key to concluding the recently-resumed Middle East peace talks.

Reporting on a two-week mission to the region — though it was barred from visiting the occupied territories — the committee issued a communiqué which also expressed concern about the nearly 400 Palestinians expelled last December and still in southern Lebanon.

The special committee had received about the persistence of serious human rights violations in the occupied territories since the taking of office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government.

Mr. Rabin took over the Israeli

government last June after a crushing electoral defeat of Mr. Shamir's Likud administration,

the most right-wing in the country's history.

The committee cited concern

about the "high number of deaths and serious injuries inflicted upon the civilian population, especially minors," and "unjust methods of house demolition."

The committee, which reports to the U.N. General Assembly, completed its hearings in Syria,

and Egypt on May 8. As in previous years, Israel denied it access to the occupied territories.

The committee, which based its findings on reports in the Israeli press as well as on oral evidence, was led by Stanley Kalpage, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United Nations.

The communiqué said: "The testimony concerning human rights violations suffered by the witnesses, their relatives, friends or neighbours as well as on the living conditions prevailing in the territories, confirmed reports that the special committee had received about the persistence of serious human rights violations in the occupied territories since the taking of office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government."

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COLUMN

Cezanne sale stuns art market

NEW YORK (R) — A Paul Cezanne still life of a bowl of apples stunned the art market selling for \$28.6 million at auction, the first painting to bring in over \$20 million in three years of disappointing sales. Works by Renoir, Braque and Matisse also sold well at the Sotheby's auction house sale bolstering the hopes of auction officials and art dealers that a three-year slump in the high end of the market was over. The Cezanne, which Sotheby's had estimated would sell for \$10 million, was sold to an unidentified buyer after a heated battle between two telephone bidders that jumped in \$1 million increments. The price broke the Cezanne record of \$17.2 million for another still life and stunned the jam-packed gallery. "The Cezanne was a thrilling surprise," said Diana Brooks, president and chief executive officer at Sotheby's. The price fell far short of the world record price for a painting of \$82.5 million in 1990 to Vincent Van Gogh's *Portrait Of Dr. Gachet*. Sotheby's officials were also pleased with the rest of the 56-lot sale, which totalled some \$76 million.

When guest don't show, hosts invite stray dogs

COLOMBO (AP) — Those lucky Sri Lankan dogs. When 40 adult guests didn't show for a ceremony honouring teenagers who helped build a crematorium, villagers grabbed stray dogs, covered them with garlands and fed them rice, curry and desserts. The teenagers, in the central village of Kotmale, were happy to share the days with the decked-out dogs; the *Divaina* newspaper reported.

Teenager accused of stealing subway train

NEW YORK (R) — Police say they took the "A" train — for a ride. In a first in the annals of New York crime, a teenager has been arrested on suspicion of stealing a city subway train. Keran Thomas, 16, allegedly showed up at a Northern Manhattan depot in a transit authority uniform and with the handle key required to move a train. Assigned a 10-car train on the "A" line — made famous by a Duke Ellington song — he got smoothly to the end of the line in Queens, a transit authority spokesman said. But coming back, he ran a red light, stopping the train.

Aborigines put curse on football official

SYDNEY (R) — Aborigines, incensed by comments by an Australian Rules Football official, put a curse on him but did not, as threatened, "point the bone" — a traditional death spell. Television cameras watched as an aborigine in Darwin, dressed in white body paint, jabbed a spear at the face of Collingwood Football Club President Allan McAlister during a reception, singing a song to bring him bad luck for the year. The curse followed Mr. McAlister's comment last month that aboriginal football players were acceptable in the sport as long as they behaved like whites.

Wisconsin crop circle called hoax

KENOSHA, Wisconsin (R) — A 35-foot (10-metre) ring in a farm field was caused by pranksters using weed killer in an area of Wisconsin where residents reported seeing unidentified flying objects last winter, police said. Ted Steele, whose house abuts the field, said he woke up to find the wheel-like design earlier this month after a night during which his wife and son heard strange noises. The ring consists of grass chopped off close to the ground and a dark brown inner circle that looks like a scorch mark, Steele said.

Nineties will be 'decade of fraud'

GENEVA (R) — The 1990s will be the decade of fraud worldwide, U.S. investigator Jules Kroll said. Mr. Kroll, known as Wall Street's "private eye" for his financial investigations, told the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce: "The 1990s will be the decade of fraud. This is not just in the United States but also in places like Japan. We have just seen the surface of this in the European context." He said greater pressure on heavily indebted companies and less verification in speedier, cross-border financial transactions would cause the dramatic rise in fraud cases.

Bush is not worth the explosives — Iraqi aide

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday, it would not waste explosives on killing former U.S. President George Bush who was already politically dead, denying allegations of an Iraqi plot to assassinate the country's arch-

rite. Mr. Bush "killed himself when he led the aggression against Iraq," said Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, press adviser to President Saddam Hussein, in an article published by Al Iraq newspaper.

He argued that Mr. Bush lost the November election because of the 1991 Gulf war, which evicted Iraq from Kuwait, and was since politically dead.

The former president "does not deserve us to sacrifice a few kilogrammes of explosives," said Mr. Mohsen. Iraq "is not the kind to assassinate the dead and commit profanity against cor-

porates." He said Kuwaiti allegations of an Iraqi plot to kill Mr. Bush in a carbomb attack were fabricated to sabotage Baghdad's efforts at economic recovery and as propaganda that Iraq still posed a threat to Kuwait.

Mr. Mohsen wrote an open letter to Mr. Clinton shortly before his inauguration calling on him to abandon the policies of his predecessor and open a dialogue with Iraq.